

# HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, June 19, 2014

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## Sister acts

Caring Kara steps in to help hospital

See Page 3



## Volunteer bid

Mayor leads campaign to create voluntary roles

See Page 4



## Clary on call

Time to think about panto — oh yes it is

See Page 22



## Queen's birthday honours awarded

UNSUNG heroes from Dudley and the wider Black Country are celebrating picking a prestigious honour in the Queen's birthday honours list.

But the most poignant recipient is undoubtedly Stephen Sutton, whose mother Jane said his MBE definitely got her late son's famous 'thumbs up'. The Staffordshire teenager, who died last month, inspired the nation with his bravery in his battle with cancer.

OBEs have gone to Gillian Cartwright, headteacher at Old Park School in Brierley Hill. MBEs go to Guides volunteer Pamela Mason, from Dudley, and Simon Platford, deputy head at Dudley's High Arcal School.

Kim Thornework, who works for the Skills Funding Agency in Stourbridge, gets a CBE for services to education.

British Empire Medals go to Kevin Lee, acting special sergeant with West Midlands Police and Sandwell resident Geoffrey Spicer, for services to indoor bowling and the community.

Philip Sawyer from Ombersley receives the same honour for charity services in Worcestershire. Sharon Row, a retiring Assistant Chief Constable with West Midlands Police, picks up the Queen's Police Medal.

## Defibrillator in all schools

BOSSSES at West Midlands Ambulance Service say a decision to help every school in the region get a defibrillator could save lives.

The Department for Education has announced plans to allow schools to purchase defibrillators at a reduced cost in time for the start of the autumn term.

Emma Wilkins, head of community response at the ambulance service, said: "For every parent in the region, there is nothing more important than keeping their children safe."

# CAMPAIGN FOR FLOOD DEFENCES

## Students on 160-mile trek to fund trip



University students Alex Hills, aged 20, of Halesowen, and his friend Roman Christoforou, 18, during their charity walk

TWO intrepid students are making a 160-mile charity trek in a bid to realise their dream of working on a project in Africa.

Alex Hills, aged 20, and his friend Roman Christoforou, 18, have been taking part in the walking challenge this week. They will be foot slogging every step of the way from the University of Exeter to Halesowen, where Alex lives, in a bid to raise £3,500.

Alex, who is a keen cricketer, is due to be welcomed home with Roman, who hails from Barcelona, when they cross the finish line at Halesowen Cricket Club today (Thursday).

They will be greeted by friends and family including Alex's parents Stewart and Linda.

They are taking on the challenge to raise £14,500 for the project which will see them join a team of 10 students from the university going to the Volta region of Ghana. There they will take part in a six-week project teaching lessons at a summer school and holding football coaching sessions with local children.

The project is run by the University of Exeter Students' Guild society, Community Action, in conjunction with a charity called KickStart Ghana.

Alex, who studies Geography at the university and plays for Old Hill Cricket Club, is one of two project leaders for this year's project.

"The feet have been aching but we have been enjoying it so far and the weather has been good to us," said Alex, of Huntington Crescent. "We have been walking anything from five to eight hours a day, so it is pretty tough."

They are hoping to be joined by friends to walk the last few miles into Halesowen.

See [www.thebigwalk.org](http://www.thebigwalk.org) for more details.

## Report by Charlotte Lilley

### A WOMAN forced out of her Halesowen home because of flooding has started a campaign calling for defences to be built.

Pauline Jones's house in Honeybourne Road was ruined after water from Illey Brook poured into it in 2008 after the River Stour was swollen by heavy rainfall.

The civil service worker is now spearheading a campaign to stop it from happening again to her and to her neighbours.

She said: "My home was completely flooded in September 2008 and I was forced to move out for a period of six months."

#### Danger

"We are still in danger because no flood defences have been put in place. When we had heavy rain earlier this year we had to resort to sandbags to keep the water away, which is not good enough."

An early warning flood system using CCTV cameras and high-tech sensors was installed along the brook to monitor river levels earlier this year. The camera automatically triggers an alert if levels rise dramatically.

The system is the result of five years co-operation between Illey Brook Flood Committee, made up of residents in the danger zone, Dudley Council and the Environment Agency.

It was hoped that walls and embankments would be installed from Manor Way to Halesmere Way or an upstream storage area built near the athletics track. However, the cost of creating the defences would be £2.4 million and the stor-



Pauline Jones by Illey Brook

age option £1.3m, though it would protect 46 properties. Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris said: "The work done by members of the Illey Brook Flood Committee helped the Halesmere estate escape the serious floods that devastated so much of the country earlier this year."

"They have been working hard to reduce the risk of Illey Brook bursting its banks and I have been working in Parliament to get a better deal from insurers."

Environment Agency spokesman Serena Baldson said: "A report shows that neither option is currently financially viable unless a considerable third party contribution can be found. However, we have installed a CCTV camera alongside the brook to remotely monitor river levels."

## MPs in move to toughen knife crime sentences

OFFENDERS convicted of possessing an illegal knife for a second time will face a mandatory jail term, under a Government bill amendment approved by MPs.

The move was backed by 404 MPs during a vote in the House of Commons on Tuesday and it means adults would receive a minimum six-month jail term on their second conviction for carrying a knife. Meanwhile, 16-year-olds would be given at least a four months in detention and a training order.

James Morris, MP for Halesowen and Rowley Regis, has campaigned for stronger sentences for knife crime since meeting with the family of fatal stabbing victim Christina Edkins.

Christina, 16, was killed on the way to Leasowes High School in Halesowen in March last year. Paranoïd schizophrenic Phillip Simelane, from Walsall, was detained at a secure psychiatric hospital indefinitely after he admitted killing the schoolgirl.

Mr Morris said: "I promised Christina Edkins's family that I would take up the issue of knife crime and would campaign for a change in the law to make sure that people caught carrying illegal knives receive the prison sentences they deserve."

## Extra £1.5m for campus

A COLLEGE is spending a further £1.5 million on improvements at its campus in Stourbridge, which is already undergoing a major revamp.

The Birmingham Metropolitan College campus will have improved classrooms and staff rooms as well as a new engineering block and a refectory.

The investment is in addition to the £5 million already being invested in the campus, located in Hagley Road, Oldswinford.

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# School hit by sewage flood — again

A PROBLEM drain has caused sewage to gush onto a school's playing fields for the fourth year running.

Sewage including toilet paper gushed out of a manhole onto a car park and pavements. Nearby play areas at Ashwood Park Primary School, in Wordsley, were also flooded with the raw sewage following heavy downpours last week.

Headteacher Steve Hudson says

the problem has been a persistent issue for the school but calls for action to water company Severn Trent have failed to bring a solution.

Ward councillor Paul Brothwood has taken up the school's case and contacted the Environment Agency about the issue with added concern that sewage could reach the nearby River Stour.

Mr Hudson said: "I believe the

unsanitary nature of the school site is placing my children and staff at risk. It's happened four times in the four years We consider it a matter of urgency."

Dirty water was cleaned away and disinfectant used to clear the area but Councillor Brothwood said the problem could not continue.

Severn Trent spokeswoman Sarah-Jayne O'Kane said: "We'd like

to apologise to the Ashwood Park Primary School community. We are aware of the problem and we're working hard to find a solution."

"Originally we were looking at this as an emergency scheme but we're now aware that it is a complex problem. Over the next 12 months we will carry out manhole surveys, flow monitoring and verify the hydraulic model for the school."

# Diehard fans on the ball to back England

**MOST people will be watching this year's World Cup at home or in the pub. But a select group of diehard fans will be making their way to Brazil to cheer on the England team.**

This plucky bunch of fans have scrimped and saved to make the near 6,000-mile trip to South America.

Mark Griffiths, 48, from Wombourne has been to every major tournament involving England since 1996, except the World Cup in Japan. He said: "If you asked me how much I spend in a year following England around then it's probably about £1,500.

"Watching England and Wolves is what I like to do. I went to the Montenegro, San Marino and Poland qualifiers. But this year the World Cup has cost me about £1,200 so far, and I have tickets to the final if we get there."

And they could be seeing even more pour through the doors than would normally be expected after it emerged there won't be any large scale public screening of games in the Black Country or Birmingham.

That's because councils in the region have snubbed the chance to show England's World Cup games in Brazil on big screens in parks and town centres.

None of the four Black Country councils, Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell or Walsall, will host outdoor events showing the games.

Birmingham City Council, which has held public events at Millennium Point and Victoria Square in the city centre in the past, has no plans to shows Roy's boys in Brazil.

Meanwhile, the Government has given the go-ahead for local authorities to allow pubs and bars to stay open for longer during the World Cup.

In Wollaston, demand was so great at The Britannia Inn Sports Bar that Saturday's England versus Italy match was all ticket affair.

## Atmosphere

Mr Griffiths, who is travelling to Brazil with friend Mark Hobson, said they had organised four coaches of England fans to go to Sao Paulo from Rio De Janeiro.

One first timer is Jamie Angus, from Gornal, who is going to the World Cup as part of a list of things to do before he turns 30 on August 1. He said: "We fly out to Sao Paulo on June 22 and we are there for 11 days.

"I'm going with my brother, Alex, and we have got tickets to the Costa Rica game and we will get tickets to the second round if we get through. We have planned it so whether we finish first or second in the group we will be in the right place. "The flights home are already booked so if we get through (to the final) I'll just have to watch it at home.

Another first timer is James McGovern, 29, a tour manager originally from Stourbridge who now lives in London. He said: "'Brazil has come at the right time for me."

## World Cup trip... to Mexico?



Wolves fan Jay Taylor 25, is off to watch the World Cup but in Mexico rather than Brazil

FOOTBALL fan Jay Taylor has headed out to South America to watch the World Cup – but he isn't going to Brazil.

The 25-year-old bar manager, who lives in Woodcross, Wolverhampton, has instead made the trip to Mexico, where he plans to watch England's first three games on television in a bar.

The Wolves fan is spending two weeks in the Mexican coastal resort of Cancun, to watch England take on Italy, Uruguay and Costa Rica. He may extend his stay if England progresses to the knockout stages.

"I wanted to be down in that area to watch the World Cup, but I couldn't afford to go to Brazil," said Jay, who works at the Red Lion pub in Sedgley. "I work in a bar, so I like the bar atmosphere. They are really mad about their football, and there will be a great atmosphere. When I heard that Mexico would be in the same group as Brazil, that really clinched it for me."

He said he would probably be cheering on the home side when England weren't playing. Jay is going with his girlfriend Amy Shepherd, who is also a keen Wolves fan.

# Car lock children call outs increase

FIRE crews are called out to rescue children locked in cars almost once a week in the West Midlands, new figures show.

The region's fire service helped free children 49 times in the last financial year. The number, revealed in a Freedom Of Information request, has been broken down further to show crews rescued children on 25 instances in the Black Country.

Tipton Fire Station had the most call-outs with four, followed by Dudley, Oldbury and Wolverhampton with three each.

The figures mark an increase in the Black Country, from 22 incidents the year before.

Typically children become locked in cars when vehicle doors are accidentally shut with the keys inside. When the parent is distressed or during hot weather, the fire service can be called.

Neil Spencer, spokesman for West Midlands Fire Service, said: "Ideally we would ask people not to leave young children in their vehicles without an adult. However, we understand that children will sometimes play with car locks and buttons and we appreciate the distress from parents desperate to get them out."

## Car insurance broker moves

A SPECIALIST classic cars and motorbikes insurance broker is moving its headquarters across the Black Country.

Footman James, which has been in Cradley Heath since its creation in 1983, is taking over the former Rentokil Initial offices in Dudley town centre.

All 150 staff will move from the current base in Waterfall Lane to Castlegate Business Park. The move will take place later this year following a refurbishment at the Dudley site.

The business has more than 100,000 policyholders.

## Going Cuckoo

JACK Nicholson features on the beer clip for the latest movie-themed ale brewed by Holden's Brewery.

The Woodsetton brewery has produced The Cuckoo's Nest , a 4.6 per cent bronze ale to celebrate the 1975 Oscar-winning movie One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest.



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**Council's chief executive to retire**

THE chief executive of Dudley Council has announced he will retire later this year.

John Polychronakis, aged 61, of Stourbridge, has worked at the council for 27 years and has held the top position for the last five and a half years.

He said he had made the decision to retire ahead of a corporate restructuring at the council. His leaving date has not yet been confirmed but he will stay until a new chief executive is appointed.

**Electrical goods destroyed in fire**

KITCHEN appliances were damaged when an electrical fault caused a fire in a warehouse in Halesowen.

The blaze was at AA Domestic Appliances' storage unit in Banners Street on Thursday evening. It involved several washing machines and a fridge. It also left the unit severely smoke damaged. Fire crews stepped in despite a 24-hour strike by West Midlands Fire Service.

The company's shop in Halesowen town centre remains open.

**Spitfire flight to honour veterans**

A SPITFIRE fighter plane from the Second World War will fly past to honour veterans at an Armed Forces Day event being held near Dudley. The event at Himley Hall on Sunday, June 29, will celebrate servicemen and women.

Organisations are being encouraged to apply if they want a stand at the event. Email marcomms.cexec@dudley.gov.uk or call (01384) 818186.

**Nursery receives an 'outstanding' rating**

STAFF and youngsters at a nursery are celebrating being awarded an outstanding grade by Ofsted. Inspectors found that under-fives made 'extremely strong progress' at Merryvale Nursery in Halesowen and described it as 'vibrant and stimulating'. The nursery, operating in Hurst Green for 22 years, is owned by Gayle Perry.

**Litter pick planned**

VOLUNTEERS are urged to sign up to a litter pick planned in Halesowen town centre on Saturday from 10.30am to coincide with Halesowen In Bloom. Call Councillor Stuart Henley on 07967 142 367

# Failure of business led man to drug crime

A MAN who turned to growing cannabis to make money has been given a suspended jail sentence.

Joseph Brogan, 50, was caught growing 28 plants in an outbuilding at his caravan park home in Oak Lane, Kingswinford.

Ms Sati Ruck, prosecuting, said police raided Brogan's home on November 26, and discovered a small cannabis set-up in an outbuilding.

"He said it had been put in place two weeks earlier, planting 30, and intending to sell in bulk as he needed money," she told the court.

Defending barrister Miss Elizabeth Power said, after working in construction for more than 30 years, Brogan had saved up enough to realise his dream of opening a convenience store two years ago. But it had closed due to the economic climate and he had got into financial difficulties. He turned to drink and drugs and someone suggested he should cultivate cannabis to make money.

Brogan, who pleaded guilty to one charge of cannabis production, was sentenced to 34 weeks in prison suspended for two years, ordered to do 200 hours community service and to pay £530 court costs.

# Proms concert at the town hall

A SUMMER proms concert will be raising the roof of a town hall on Saturday

The Voices in Harmony choir will be performing at Dudley Town Hall at 7pm.

The group, based in Cradley Heath, will be joining forces with the Marston Singers together with items from the Shirley Brass Band.

The special guest for the evening is internationally acclaimed singer Jonathan Veira.

Tickets, priced £12, can be booked via the choir's website at [www.vihchoir.org](http://www.vihchoir.org) or by calling (01384) 635507.

# Gas leak on road

TEMPORARY traffic lights were put up on a busy route in the Black Country due to an underground gas leak on Monday.

Workers were digging up the road at the junction of the A491 with Vicarage Road in Amblecote to locate the source of the leak.

# 'Breaking point' fear as 100 council jobs axed

ALMOST 100 jobs will be axed by Dudley Council this financial year — sparking concern that the authority is reaching 'breaking point'.

The council is to make 27 compulsory and 72 voluntary redundancies in 2014/15 as it struggles to balance its books in the face of £34 million cuts over the next three years.

It follows the loss of 621 jobs from the council over the previous three years.

Councillor Stuart Turner, cabinet member for finance, said: "In the light of re-

duced funding from national government we are working on smarter and more innovative ways of delivering services.

## Compulsory

"With regard to staffing levels we are also looking to reduce the need for compulsory redundancies by encouraging voluntary redundancies, managing vacancies and redeploying staff to other areas wherever possible.

"Inevitably, however, there will be some

compulsory redundancies as a result of the agreed budget for 2014/15 and we will be working with staff throughout this process."

The figures have been met with concern from union bosses.

Steve Beardsmore, branch secretary for Unison, said: "We have to remember that this new set of redundancies comes on top of the hundreds of workers who have already been made redundant over the past couple of years.

"There has to come a breaking point. At the moment services are being provided because workers are doing over and above what they are contracted to do."

Mr Beardsmore, who represents 3,500 council staff, said: "Everybody is totally disappointed.

"It is a feeling of no matter what they do they are being targeted. It feels local councils are bearing the brunt.

"We are in danger of not being able to meet the legally statutory service."

# Shock at high figures for missing dogs and cats

DUDLEY borough is among the worst areas for the number of missing pets, figures from the Kennel Club show.

The DY postcode area — which also includes Tipton and Kidderminster — has a total of 443 cats and 146 dogs registered as missing with the Kennel Club's Petlog database, the latest figures have revealed.

The Birmingham postcode district — which includes most

of Sandwell and Halesowen — has the largest number of pets reported as missing, with 374 dogs and 1,477 cats having vanished.

## Vigilant

Dudley councillor Alan Finch said he was surprised by the figures.

Councillor Finch added: "It does shock me to hear the number of missing pets. I'm an animal lover myself and hate to hear of any lost pets.

"I'd urge people to get their animals chipped and be vigilant."

The Kennel Club figures show that across England, there are 13,842 dogs registered as lost or stolen, and 50,581 missing cats.

The organisation is now urging more pet owners to get their animals micro-chipped.

The animals had all been reported missing between 2003 and May 2014, and are still registered as lost or stolen.

Over the same period of time more than 4,000 dogs and 3,700 cats were reunited

by Heather Large

with their owners, meaning 75 per cent of dogs and more than 45 per cent of cats were recovered thanks to their microchips.

Celia Walsom, who manages the Petlog scheme which helps reunite pet owners with their lost animals, said it was also important that owners ensured that the microchip database was kept up to date with the latest details.

"A microchip is a wonderful thing and helps to reunite tens of thousands of pets with their owners," she said. "But it is not a magic wand and will not work if pet owners do not keep their contact details up to date with their microchipping database.

"A lot of families move house and change phone numbers, making it impossible to reunite their pets in a lot of cases."

She added that June was National Microchipping Month which aimed to encourage pet owners to consider microchipping.



Ten-year-old Kara Bacon is pictured with her sister Charlotte, aged four, who had kidney surgery at Birmingham

# Sister's thanks for care of Charlotte

SISTERLY love has kept two siblings smiling even as one faced a daunting trip to hospital for an operation.

Four-year-old Charlotte Bacon, from Dudley, had been receiving treatment from Birmingham Children's Hospital after being diagnosed with an enlarged kidney when she was born. Despite treatment the condition did not improve.

Doctors found that one of the ducts leading to the kidney had narrowed, which needed corrective surgery.

In a bid to settle her nerves before the operation last week, staff at the

hospital invited her and her family in meet staff.

Charlotte's older sister Kara, aged 10, was so inspired by the visit that she wanted to help the hospital with a fundraising drive.

She organised a charity coffee morning which was held at the family's house in Langstone Road, Russells Hall, raising £100 for the department, much to the delight of the family including their father Paul Bacon, 36.

The sisters' mother Karly Round, 32, said: "The staff at the hospital

have been fantastic. I think Charlotte was very brave. She has just got through it.

"Kara was amazing. When she said she wanted to do something I told her to get her thinking cap and she came up with the coffee morning.

"She organised the whole day and the activities including a guess-the-song competition."

Both girls attend Milking Bank Primary School. Charlotte is now recovering at home and the family are already planning further fundraising efforts for the children's hospital.

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## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



WE are told this week that millions of Brits are borderline diabetic. So what's your blood-sugar level? You probably don't know and neither does your doctor because you hardly ever meet each other. Those of us with high blood pressure, on the other hand, get a series of free MoTs with six-monthly checks and annual blood tests. My test was a fortnight ago so I know my blood-sugar is fine, my potassium is a little low and my hypertension is controlled. It is an irony of the NHS that the best way to stay healthy these days is to develop a medical condition.

A REPORT by Cancer Research UK says nearly one teenager in 20 has used a sunbed, despite the 2011 law banning their use by under-18s. So why not ban them altogether? Sunbeds, that is, not teenagers.

A NEW app promises "peace at mealtimes" by locking the kids' mobile phones and other devices. Hardly – the moment the kids realise what you've done, stand by crashing cutlery, heavy sighs, occasional hysterical blubbing and endless choruses of: "Oh, you're just so unreasonable."

IF YOU think there is no more dangerous creature than a man with a gun who thinks he can hear the voice of God, consider the horrors coming to light in Ireland. A mass grave of 800 children has been uncovered at a former home for unmarried mothers in County Galway. This week an Irish radio show claimed that hundreds of children in such homes were used as guinea pigs for vaccines. These homes were run by nuns. Once she has been suitably brainwashed, the female of the species can be just as unpleasant as the male.

J K ROWLING has donated £1 million to the Better Together campaign and dismissed the Scottish independence campaign as "a denial of risks." She is a brave lady. There is a nasty, trollish side to the Yes movement and when the Scots reject independence in September, as they most certainly will, the angry, blue-faced Braveheart tendency will be looking for people to blame.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# Police team visit hotels to combat sex crimes

**HOTELS are among the venues being targeted by a new police initiative in the West Midlands aimed at stopping sexual exploitation and child abuse.**

Receptionists, porters, and cleaners are among the staff being spoken to at hotels and bed and breakfasts across the region. The aim is to get them to contact police if they think they spot anyone who may be a victim of sexual exploitation on their premises.

West Midlands Police's Child Sexual Exploitation team have started the work with visits to venues in the Black Country this month.

Twelve teams focusing on specific issues such as Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) have started work.

The new CSE team, that will comprise 19 officers, provides detective expertise to investigations, as well as developing initiatives to raise awareness and tackle exploitation issues.

One of these initiatives called 'Say Something' is to raise awareness of sexual exploitation at hotels and B&Bs across the region.

The sessions are aimed at helping staff to be able to recognise the possible signs of sexual exploitation on their premises. They want staff to have to feel confident about what they need to do if they have concerns.

Detective Inspector Jane Gooderidge, from the force's Child Sexual Exploitation

team, said: "West Midlands Police is committed to tackling sexual exploitation in all its forms but more specifically to protect the vulnerable and identify and prosecute those who prey upon them."

"A new team has been set up to specifically look at these issues and we are pleased to be involved with our partners and hoteliers in the say something if you see something campaign. The tool kit put together by a national working group is designed to educate staff at hotels to report any suspicious behaviour."

"A variety of hotel staff with different job roles have attended the sessions, from hotel managers, receptionists, housekeeping, receptionists, porters and bar staff. The feedback we have received from staff is that they valued the sessions and commented on how it opened their eyes to an area they knew very little about."

## Mayor makes volunteer pledge



Councillors Margaret Aston and Adam Aston launch youth pledge 100

A CAMPAIGN to create 100 volunteering opportunities for young people has been launched by Dudley's new mayor.

Dudley Council for Voluntary Service and Dudley Council have teamed up to introduce Youth Pledge 100. It aims to encourage 100 organisations to provide volunteering opportunities for young people by the end of this month.

The promotion was launched after Dudley CVS revealed that over the past year 94 young people approached the volunteering body to offer their services free of charge but only two vacancies for people aged between 15 and 25 existed.

Mayor Councillor Margaret Aston, the council's volunteering champion, was the first to make the pledge when she committed the council to providing opportunities.

She said: "With youth unemployment so high, it is more important than ever for young people to have solid CVs and work experience. Often the only way that they can achieve this is through volunteering."

## Cocaine addict is jailed for 27 months

A DRUG user who supplied cocaine to fund his own addiction has been jailed for 27 months.

Barry Pittaway, of Rowley Regis, was arrested after 22.5g of cocaine was found by police during a raid at his previous address in Netherton on December 13.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard officers had kicked down the door and found Pittaway holding a kitchen knife.

The 23-year-old dropped the blade after being told to do so by police and had admitted there were drugs in the house.

Judge Martin Walsh was told the cocaine had a street value of £3,880.

Pittaway, of Bellview Road, had previously pleaded guilty to one count of possessing a class-A drug with intent to supply.

Mrs Sati Ruck, prosecuting, said Pittaway did not deal on the streets and while there was a financial element to the crime it was to fund his own addiction.

Mr Gurdeep Garcha, defending, said: "He has taken full responsibility for what he has done. He is not seeking to lay the blame elsewhere."

Judge Walsh said: "Class-A drugs devastate lives and are a blight on the community. Your own drug use has led you to the position you now face."

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## Group has new leader in its bid to save venue

A NEW leader has been elected to a campaign group hoping to save a once popular theatre from demolition. Friends of Dudley Hippodrome co-founder and group leader Geoff Fitzpatrick died aged 72 in January following a short illness and the group have been searching for a full time leader. But now acting chairman Gordon Downing has taken on the role following the Friends' annual meeting at the Station Hotel.

### Forward

The group was formed three years ago and have highlighted the plight of the historic venue to thousands. Mr Downing says he hoped the move will lead to continuity moving forward as members bid to force Dudley Council bosses to back down from their plans to demolish the town's former top venue. Mr Downing has also recruited Mr Fitzpatrick's daughter Debbie Dean to the group to help with finances while a new deputy chairman Martyn Whitehead has also come on board. "The group feels re-energised and we are pleased they have come on board, especially Debbie, and we hope it will help us keep moving forward," Mr Downing said. The group need to secure around £5,000 to start the process of becoming a charitable trust.

# Concerns on care home decision 'partially upheld'

**AN OFFICIAL complaint has been lodged with a Government watchdog over the future for a care home.**

Dudley Council has decided to transfer management of New Bradley Hall, Kingswinford, to not-for-profit organisation Black Country Housing Group. The council was forced to appoint an independent investigator following concerns by Phil Vanes, on behalf of New Bradley Hall Action Group.

**by Andrew Turton**

The investigation 'partially upheld' the concerns saying that campaigners were 'misled' in respect of the future plans for the home. But investigating officer Debra Johnson said she did not believe this was 'deliberate'. Two further complaints by the campaigners were dismissed.

Mr Vanes confirmed the group had now made an official complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman.

A consultation by Age UK Dudley in 2012 found 75 per cent of people wanted New Bradley Hall to stay open as a council-run home. The council's cabinet endorsed this view in June 2012.

But investigating officer Debra Johnson found that a revised set of options was drawn up behind-the-scenes and discussed in January 2013 by the council. This included the option to transfer the home to a not-for-profit group. Campaigner Phil Vanes maintains they were not aware of these changes and believes the council should have run a second consultation.

The plan was made public on September 27, 2013, by Councillor Dave Branwood, lead member for adult and community service. But the report stated the decision had been reached in 'early summer 2013'.

The council's director of adult, community and housing services, Andrea Pope-Smith, said: "We welcome the Independent Investigator's detailed report which found the council has acted appropriately and legally in relation to New Bradley Hall. We have, and always will, put the needs of the people in New Bradley Hall first throughout our work in transferring the home to a not for profit organisation. A single recommendation was also made by the independent investigator to review the way we record our discussions and decisions, which we will of course carry out."

## Patriotic lorry will be helping charities



Chris Schofield of Mary Stevens Hospice with Katie Willington and Lucy Bayliss of Primrose Hospice

TWO charities will benefit if people get snap happy when spotting a patriotic truck on Midland roads.

Bosses at a concrete supplier are backing the England team during the World Cup while also helping two hospices.

Kingswinford-based Accumix Concrete have adorned its newest vehicle with livery of the flag of St George. The truck have been christened after the patron saint and will be on the road during the tournament.

For every unique location photograph of the truck received by the readymix firm a donation of £10 will be put into a charity fund to be split between the two charities at the end of the campaign in Brazil.

Cash will be donated to Mary Stevens Hospice, in Stourbridge, and The Primrose Hospice, Bromsgrove. The truck is part of a fleet of 11 owned by the company.

Anyone who sees George making a delivery can email the photograph they take of him to [george@accumix.co.uk](mailto:george@accumix.co.uk) giving the street name, area, time and date it was taken.

## NEWS in brief

### Walled garden has £10k lifeline

A HERITAGE group has been handed a £10,000 'lifeline' in its bid to buy a historic walled garden.

Halesowen Abbey Trust wants to buy the site on the Leasowes Estate from Birmingham Metropolitan College and create a visitor centre. They need £20,000 to complete the purchase.

A&J Mucklow Group Plc has agreed to donate £10,000 if the rest is raised by the community. The Trust's Mick Freer said: "We still have a further £10,000 to raise but the situation looks more encouraging."

Justin Parker, managing director of A J Mucklow PLC, said: "We are delighted to support this worthwhile project. The walled garden has so much potential."

### Fans challenged to pick dream team

PEOPLE are being challenged to pick the best Black Country football team since 1970.

Black Country Ales is running the Black Country Dream Team competition with a prize of a signed England 1966 World Cup shirt for the winning entry.

Entry forms are available at all the BCA pubs and feature a selection of Wolves, Albion and Walsall players to pick from.

It costs £1 to have a go with money raised going to the Mary Stevens Hospice. The closing date is July 12.

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IN MY VIEW

WITH MARK ANDREWS

JUST back from a few days in Weymouth, almost 35 years to the day since my first visit to the Dorset seaside town.

I've always loved Weymouth. Somehow it has managed to remain the quintessential British seaside town without too much of the Kiss-me-Quick excesses which have taken over many of our other resorts.

Returning after all these years, it is good to see that things have not changed too much. Of course, most of the changes that have taken place are for the worse – the ugly tourist information centre on the seafont, the proliferation of tea huts on the beach, the confusing road changes. But, for all this, it is still essentially the same old place that it always was, from the sand sculptures and Punch and Judy shows, to the sun-kissed joys of the harbour.

But one thing I have learned during the short break is that I now have a burning hatred of pedalos. When I first went to Weymouth in 1979, one of the greatest joys was hiring a float. The simple wooden rafts, with their crude oars, provided endless fun for something like £1.20 an hour. You walked up to the kiosk a mere mortal, you returned a seafaring hero. Ok, there might be a bit of hyperbole going on there, but you get my drift.

Anyway, the floats are long gone, to be replaced by the hateful pedalos. Flabby, tattooed teenagers, racing these stupid vessels at breakneck speed, mowing down anybody who stands in their way. And they make an annoying clicking sound.

Pedalo-users are the maritime equivalent of the militant cycling fraternity, those Lycra-clad urban terrorists who have turned our pavements into no-go areas.

We keep being told there is an obesity epidemic among the youngsters, but is this really a surprise when they cannot even manage to row their own rafts in the sea?

Solve the obesity crisis, ban pedalos. Makes sense to me.

INCIDENTALLY, during my weekend in Weymouth, there were two signs which showed just what is going wrong with our country.

The first was predictable enough, the sign pointing to the 'train station', rather than the 'railway station'. It seems that this awful Americanism is now well and truly ingrained into the fabric of our culture.

The other one warned against feeding the seagulls, for health and safety reasons, naturally.

"These birds may look pretty, but they can be very aggressive," said the sign.

Says it all, doesn't it? Killer Seagulls. Sounds like something out of a Hitchcock thriller.



Final preparations before playing at a Newcastle arena



The boys seen in action performing on stage



Jumps following in McBusted's footsteps

# EofE boys heading in just one direction

**LEE WATTON** speaks to one group of Black Country youngsters hoping to hit the pop big time – EofE

**SCREAMING fans singing your songs back to you, devoted Twitter messages flooding in from across the country and jet-setting tours in Europe and America in the pipeline – welcome to life for a Black Country band set to become the next big chart sensation.**

It takes most groups years to score a support slot on a much-anticipated tour with one of the biggest pop superstars playing to sell-out arenas.

But for Dudley-based guitar band EofE, this whirlwind tour is just the next step on a meteoric rise which could lead to chart domination and wealth beyond their wildest dreams.

Thousands of fans have been following the group's progress on Twitter – fast growing their support, much like Wolverhampton's own One Direction star Liam Payne.

The band, formed by school friends from the town just a few months ago, were picked to support McBusted on their tour this spring after their manager touted them to the band's promoters.

Pictures documenting their rapid rise have captured the imagination of legions of music fans, who have already dubbed themselves the EofE Army.

Last month the group performed at Birmingham's LG Arena, rocking out in front of a crowd of 15,000. While this is their first taste of stardom the band are determined not to let the opportunity slip from their grasp after already being offered tours of America and Germany once the McBusted tour comes to an end.

They have performed in front of thou-



Black Country popsters EofE who have released their first single, Lust

sands at venues in Newcastle, Cardiff, Brighton, Bournemouth and Belfast as part of the 32-date nationwide tour.

And it is a far cry from the band's humble beginnings rehearsing at King'swinford Rugby Club.

Guitarist Dan Bremner, 19, originally from Gornal but who now lives in Swindon, said it had happened 'very quickly'.

"This line-up of the band performed together for the first time in February.

"This has been a major step very early in our career and it has been ab-

solutely fantastic," he said.

"Our first time on a stage of this scale was in Glasgow. The first thing we did when arriving was go out into the venue and look out from the stage. "It is absolutely amazing going out on stage and the adrenaline hits you. It has been a really amazing experience to perform in front of so many people."

Like most bands, Dan said the group had its own ritual before going out on stage. The band prepares for each performance with a vocal routine as a warm-up. They also do sit-ups and

press-ups to build up their stamina for the gig.

And Dan admitted to the band enjoying a 'sneaky' Jack Daniels and Coke before going out on stage.

The makings of the band first began three years ago when vocalist Tom Harris, 17, met Dan after he came to see a band the teenager was performing in.

He liked Tom's music and asked him to join the band.

Dan knew bassist Luke Bradley, 18, as both attended the Ellowes Hall School, in Gornal, and had performed in bands there. "We both played in a band at school," he added.

"We all just decided to go for it and to pursue our dream. It has meant giving up plans for college and other jobs."

Drummer Nicky Waters, who is 25, is the only member of the band not from the Black Country as he hails from Newcastle.

## Sainsbury's

He joined the band after answering an advertisement. The group was chosen as the support act for the tour after the lads' manager sent their material to the McBusted team, who offered them the slot.

Dan said: "We did not hear anything back for a while. Our manager actually told us we had been offered the slot while we were in the Sainsbury's car park in Swindon. We got a lot of looks from shoppers because we were shouting and cheering so much."

Tom Harris described the opportunity as 'a dream come true'.

The former Hillcrest Community College pupil said: "We are really excited and still can't believe it is happening."

Since then their lives have been lived out on the road in a fancy, big red tour bus. Before this big break the biggest audience they had ever played to was 600. The band has released their first single, called Lust, which is available to download now.

## POLITICS

WITH DANIEL WAINWRIGHT



WHEN David Cameron didn't quite win the last General Election he distanced himself from one of Margaret Thatcher's famous lines: "There is no such thing (as society)."

He concluded there was such a thing, but that it wasn't the same as the state. What he set out to create with his 'big society' project was a way of encouraging people to play an active part in the community and make it easier to run a charity or voluntary organisation.

Four years on and it's not a buzz phrase you hear a fat lot – not, at least, as often as you hear 'bedroom tax' or 'help to buy' or even 'regional growth fund'.

But it's still there in the background. It didn't come into play when Tory councillors in Staffordshire started discussing the sacred cows that are libraries, even though it fits their proposals to use volunteers.

In Wolverhampton, a Labour plan to scale back opening hours and recruit an army of volunteers was met with a wave of petitions and protests.

Half the battle, I always thought, was in a name. Everyone knows what a library is. It's a place with lots of books where pre-schoolers can go and have story time and sing The Wheels On The Bus and where grown-ups can get on the internet. A community hub was something else no-one had ever heard of.

So Staffordshire has at least been savvy enough to use the word 'library' in the plan its councillors haven't quite yet unveiled. They're going to be known as 'library core', 'library local' and 'library extra'.

Key to making sure libraries are open will be moving away from the 'one size fits all approach'. And that means the public will have to step in and volunteer. In a climate of squeezed public spending, coupled with increased demand for services from an ageing population and looked after children, it's no longer enough to just say 'use it or lose it'.

Now, if you want to keep something going you have to offer to run it as well. The big society is based on the idea of people wanting to volunteer their time to help out.

But at the same time, if the government's figures are to be believed, there are millions more people in private sector employment than when the Coalition came to office. I barely have the time to read novels as it is, let alone run a library.

I'd love to believe there are so many people out there who have the time and the inclination to save their libraries from dwindling stocks of books and shorter opening hours.

I certainly don't criticise the county council for asking if there's anyone out there prepared to do it. I'm just a little worried what might happen if the answer is no.

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## Traditional shop is victim of revamp

PAUL'S Butchers (formerly Grainger's) of New Street, Dudley, has closed its doors for the last time. A family business at the heart of a once bustling town - this has been the site of a traditional butcher's shop for more than 60 years - is the latest to fall victim to the new £5m town centre 're-development'.

Why our cash-strapped council can think it is a 'wise investment' to demolish a perfectly good town centre market at the beginning of summer is beyond me. Blocking off the last remaining half decent town centre through road (New Street) is plain lunacy!

I have not spoken to one person, shop owner, market trader or the Dudley shopping public who has anything good to say about this so called 're-development'. Decisions on the future of our town centre should be decided by the people who shop here and the business owners who keep the wheels of commerce oiled and continue to pay their sky-high rates to Dudley Council. Dudley business owners and shoppers deserve some answers.

**M WILKES**  
Dudley

## Thanks for RNLI cash

ON Saturday May 3 we held our annual flag day collection in Stourbridge town centre for the benefit of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

The permit for the collection had been granted by Dudley Borough Council. The total collected was £501.75.

There were no expenses incurred and there were no payments made in connection with the collection.

We at the Stourbridge branch should like to express our warm thanks to the shoppers in Stourbridge town centre for their generosity.

Their traditional support for the RNLI is valued and appreciated.

**Chris Fonteyn**  
Chairman,  
RNLI  
Stourbridge Branch

## Weighty issue for the police

CAN having an overweight child really be a criminal offence?

It's a pity that our 'slimmed down' police force isn't fighting crime rather than in the chip shop, while it seems social workers who abandon their charges into the hands of violent parents can walk away with hundreds of thousands in compensation. But a parent who may be at their wits end trying to get their child to eat healthily are now criminalised while crooked politicians get peerages and corrupt bankers bonuses.

**S T VAUGHAN**  
Birmingham

## Where are the English doctors?

IN the 70s when I had my children all of the doctors and midwives were English.

Some 25 years later when I had a major operation the surgeon was English but his understudy was foreign and I remember being very embarrassed because I couldn't understand what he was saying. He was one of the few foreign people I had encountered. Just over a year ago my husband had surgery. All who treated him were foreign, including the anaesthetist and a number of the nurses. The surgeon is foreign, as is his dentist.

Last week whilst on holiday I had a problem with my eye, I attended three different hospitals and saw five different doctors, all were foreign and only two of the nurses were English. My friend's surgery has no English GPs at all.

Every one of these doctors was wonderful and we cannot fault them. We have no objection to being treated by foreign people but what happens to the English doctors and dentists we train?

**J JAMES**  
Wordsley

## LETTERS to the Editor

### POST

Dudley Chronicle,  
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51-53 Queen Street,  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

### E-MAIL

Dudley.chron  
@expressandstar.co.uk

## Right royal anger over bag charge

I CANNOT believe that not one person has responded to the recent degrading of the Queen. After a 19 day recess the best brains of the government have come up with the answer to the UK's problems.

The Queen was asked to announce that her subjects will now pay a levy of 5p for a plastic bag; why on earth did we not think of this before? Is someone in Government trying to ridicule the monarchy?

The NHS is in dire straits; the pension service is on the verge of collapse; the immigration system is out of control; the Scots and Welsh want out of the UK - who can blame them?; we are being ripped off by the power companies and we are in conflict with several

nations and Mr Cameron demotes the Queen to shop assistant royal to pronounce a 5p charge for a plastic bag? We must now be the laughing stock of Europe to be passing laws like this.

If anyone had dared to humiliate President Putin in this way their feet would not touch the ground until they were in Siberia, so why is it okay to ridicule the British monarch, which brings in the question of the role of her personal advisers who allowed this to happen? P45s spring to mind.

God Save the Queen! It seems to me she needs all the friends she can muster, she does not appear to have many in parliament.

**C W BLAKEWAY**  
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# 'Green Shoots' business folk see behind scenes

**BUSINESSES** who received grants from the Express & Star Green Shoots Fund were able to see behind the scenes at Britain's biggest selling regional newspaper.

Senior managers from companies that have benefited from the job-boosting Fund were given a guided tour of publisher Midland News Association's head office in Queen Street, Wolverhampton, as well as presentations on business to business marketing, media promotion and social media.

The Green Shoots Fund was set up with the University of Wolverhampton to distribute £1.4 million from the Government's flagship Regional Growth Fund. So far, 14 businesses have been awarded £461,300 between them to create 53 jobs.

## Eligible

Companies with fewer than 250 employees and based in the Black Country are eligible to bid for up to £50,000 each, which must be used for expansion and job creation. Others can still apply if they are based within Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell or Walsall.

The party included Dean Adey from Longwear Alloys, in West Bromwich, Dave Bytheway of Bytheway and Co Accountants, in Sedgley, and Chris and Gary Burke of Wolverhampton removals company Burke Brothers. They were accompanied by Green Shoots investment manager Martin Nicholas, from the university's Business Solutions Centre.

The group were able to see all aspects of the Express & Star operation, including a visit to the newsroom to watch the editorial team behind the Regional Press Awards newspaper of the year in action.

Dave Bytheway said the visit had been beneficial, particularly the talk



Martin Nicholas and MNA's Chris Leggett with back Dean Adey, Dave Bytheway, Chris and Gary Burk

on Twitter and Facebook. He said: "I discovered that the possibilities to use social media to enhance the visibility of our business to a different audience that we currently market is endless with minimal cost to our company."

"The visit highlighted the immense history of the Express & Star as a com-

pany and the size of the MNA brand as a whole. The funding from Green Shoots is giving other businesses a chance to create opportunities for others that would be difficult to provide in without their help."

To find out more, contact Martin Nicholas on 01902 323884.

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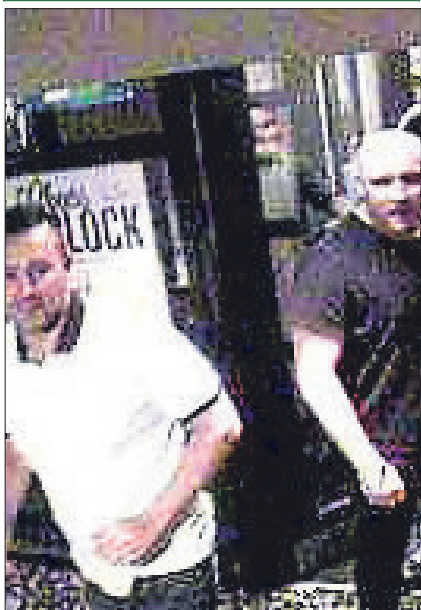
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## Vicious assault inside town pub



**Men sought after Stourbridge pub attack — the CCTV image from the incident released by police**

POLICE have released CCTV images of two men they want to speak to in connection with a vicious pub attack in Stourbridge.

The attack took place inside the Edward Rutland Pub in High Street. A 25-year-old man was approached inside the pub by one of the offenders who walked up and punched him in the face.

Bouncers intervened and the attacker walked away. A short time later, the man was again approached by the offender, now joined by a second man, who grabbed him by the throat and struck him across the head with a wooden chair, causing him to fall to the floor. He was repeatedly kicked by both thugs. The victim was taken to hospital and treated for bruising and swelling to his face. The attack happened around 12.30am on May 30.

# Police in clear over dog attack on boy, 10

**AN INVESTIGATION** launched after a 10-year-old boy was attacked by a police dog in his grandmother's garden has concluded that there are no misconduct or training issues.

Rowley Regis boy Tom Cutbill, now 11, suffered serious leg wounds above and below the knee. The terrified youngster had to undergo two skin graft operations and needed 20 stitches.

Police had been called to Western Road to carry out a search following a report of a metal theft at Langley Green train station.

**by Charlotte Lilley**

## Suspects

The German Shepherd-Belgian Malinois cross, named Shadow, was being used to search for the suspects in nearby New Henry Street a year ago.

Tom had been playing in the back garden on his bike when attacked.

The dog was on a leash and had a handler.

West Midlands Police launched an investigation and this week the force said its inquiry revealed both the dog and the handler had adhered to national guidelines.

No compensation has been paid out yet but the force has admitted liability. The police investigation

concluded that the youngster had suffered a single bite wound in what it described as a 'tragic incident'.

Spokesman Deb Edmonds said: "The police investigation, which was supervised by the IPCC, is complete and found no misconduct or training issues. The dog and handler performed in accordance with national police guidelines."

Both officer and dog were allowed to stay on duty.

Chief Superintendent Chris McKeogh said the officer involved was an experienced dog handler who had been 'traumatised' by the attack.

Bleakhouse Junior school pupil Tom was taken to Sandwell Hospital and was allowed back to his home in Farm Road three days later.

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William Bayliss's service record, which is on display



Adrian Bailey MP, grandson of able seaman William Bayliss, featured in the exhibition



First World War sailor William seen in uniform in his mid 20s



Able seaman William Bayliss, when he was aged around 18

# MP Adrian's family pride as story of First World War sailor is told

**THINK** of the First World War and muddy trenches and cratered battlefields immediately spring to mind.

But an exhibition of items belonging to a sailor is shedding new light on one of the conflict's biggest naval battles.

Able seaman Bill Bayliss is the grandfather of West Bromwich MP Adrian Bailey, who has donated his relative's uniforms, medals and rare naval documents to a Tipton Library.

Items now on display include his sailor's hat, a full service record and hatbands from the ships on which he served, including HMS Vivid and HMS Conqueror.

Family postcards and birthday cards from Adrian's grandmother to his grandfather and a picture of HMS Orion are also included in the display, alongside four medals including the 1914 Star, the British War Medal, the Victory Medal and the Long Service Medal to the Naval Reserve.

Able seaman Bayliss came from Winch-

## MEMORY LANE

by Tom Mason

combe in the Cotswolds and served on nearly 20 ships during his long naval career. But it was his time on the HMS Orion that would see him facing off against a fleet of 99 German ships in the Battle of Jutland – the largest naval battle of the First World War.

The German fleet hoped that by manoeuvring their ships off the coast of Denmark, they could lure the British and separate them to destroy a large part of the fleet. They hoped to break the British blockade in the North Sea, while Britain hoped to smash the German Navy with a head-on assault.

During the battle, the dreadnought HMS Orion fired more than 50 shells from its main guns, scoring four hits on the German battleship the SMS Lützow.

This helped sink the ship, which earlier in the battle had damaged the battlecruiser

HMS Lion – one of the flagships of the British fleet. In total, the British Navy lost 14 ships and more than 6,000 sailors during the battle, while Germany lost 11 ships and 2,551 crew.

Both sides declared the battle a victory, though neither achieved the aims they had set out to complete.

Mr Bailey said: "My grandfather signed up in 1908 to avoid the poverty of his rural upbringing and was already a serving seaman when the war broke out. In some ways he was lucky because he managed to avoid being sent to the trenches. I have been fascinated by this collection which I am delighted has remained in my family."

Former auctioneer Mr Bailey saved the collection from being sold off when items belonging to his grandmother Pamela went up for sale at his own auction house. "I was asked by my family to sell off my grandma's items, but when the sale came up I had someone in the audience bidding for me," said the Labour MP and keen amateur historian. Since then the items have sat in

my loft, but with the centenary of the First World War coming up I thought that they should be displayed for the public to see."

Following his time in the Navy, Mr Bailey's grandfather returned to his home in the Cotswolds and continued to raise his family but like most people in rural communities, he struggled to find work. "The real hero of the story was my grandma, she raised her children during the poverty of the 1920s and 1930s," said Mr Bailey.

Bill and Pamela married just 12 days after the Battle of Jutland, while Bill was on shore leave following the battle and they lived together until his death aged 60 in 1952.

Robert Hazel, library manager, said: "We already have an extensive First World War collection which demonstrates the hardships of life for the people of Tipton during the First World War. I know these additional contributions from Adrian will be greatly welcomed." The items currently on loan to the library in Unity Walk will be on display until the end of the summer.

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## Right royal treatment for Tommy with party



Tommy Munden is pictured with staff and patients who laid on a party at Mary Stevens Hospice

VETERAN Black Country comedian Tommy Munden was disappointed when he had to decline an invitation to attend a royal garden party at Buckingham Palace because he was unwell. But the 80-year-old, who has Parkinson's disease, was delighted when staff at Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge decided to hold one in his honour.

The retired comedian had been invited to a royal garden party on June 3 for 'outstanding services to comedy and entertainment in the West Midlands'.

Ruth Davies, a sister at the hospice in Hagley Road, Oldswinford, where Tommy attends once a week, said: "We suggested having a garden party here because he was disappointed when he couldn't go. Tommy, of Halesowen, said: "I was disappointed I couldn't go to the garden party but I've had a nice time here."

# Vouchers to help with uniforms may finish

A SCHOOL clothing allowance which helps some of the poorest families in Sandwell pay for uniforms could be scrapped as part of budget cuts.

Sandwell Council is looking at either reducing or withdrawing the funding for the scheme in 2015/16 in a bid to make savings. Between September 2013 and April 2014, a total of 2,622 pupils have received school clothing vouchers.

The total cost of this provision has been £62,000.

by Heather Large

The allowance is available to parents on a low income, who would be entitled to free school meals, to help towards the purchase of school clothing.

The vouchers can be used when pupils are starting school for the first time or are transferring to, or in, secondary school.

Families can apply for cash grants of £25 for pupils in years 7 to 11 and £20 for reception year pupils under the scheme.

A report, which went before Councillor Simon Hackett, cabinet member for children's services, said that the scheme would continue to be available for parents in the 2014/15 financial year, which runs until next April. But the scheme will be reviewed later this year as

part of the budget proposals when a public consultation with parents will take place.

The report says: "Proposals have been included in the budget strategy for the reduction or withdrawal of funding for Sandwell's school clothing allowance in 2015/16.

"If this is the case, appropriate consultations with those affected will be conducted."

A further report will go before Councillor Hackett later this year when the public consultation is expected to be agreed.

Families may qualify for the clothing allowance if their annual income is less than £16,190 or they Income Support, Child Tax Credit or income-based Jobseekers Allowance.

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## Police warning over children on tracks

POLICE are warning about the dangers of youngsters playing on railway tracks following a spate of 51 incidents in the West Midlands this year.

British Transport Police officers were called to five separate incidents in the Stourbridge area with the many others at stations around Birmingham.

Police say many of these incidents involved children, and officers are now appealing for parents to ensure their children are aware of the dangers the railway network poses.

Inspector Stuart Middlemas, of British Transport Police in Birmingham, said that as well as risking death or injury, anyone caught trespassing on the rail network faced a fine of up to £1,000.

He said officers had already spoken with schools and written to people living near railway lines, as well as stepping up patrols in the areas where problems have been reported.

## Bomb shelter artist in a dig for history



Artist Luke Perry in the shelter he built, watched by pupils

HISTORY is being brought to life for school children with a newly-built bomb shelter being used to teach youngsters about the Second World War.

Pupils at St James's Primary School in Wollaston have taken a step back in time with the help of Black Country artist, Luke Perry.

The 30-year-old artist, who constructs sculptures and artworks out of metal at his factory in Cradley Heath, has built a replica Anderson shelter, similar to those used to protect families during Nazi air raids.

The artist used contemporary instructions and accounts to construct his shelter, which has been built to help the youngsters learn about the 1939 to 45 conflict.

The father-of-one said: "I have worked with the school a couple of times in the past and they asked me to create the shelter so that it could be used as a catalyst for story telling."

"I looked at instructions on how to build them that still exist and altered them slightly to make the structure safer. It's a great example of a simple design that works."

## Hearings over who has a say on HS2

FOUR days of hearings will be held next month to decide who has the right to state their case against HS2 after nearly 2,000 objections were raised.

Some 1,925 people and organisations have submitted petitions in the House of Commons objecting to the £50 billion high speed rail project.

Everyone who has submitted a petition and is deemed 'directly affected' should have the right to go and raise their concerns before a committee of MPs.

HS2 Ltd is being given the chance to challenge some of those over their right to speak during the four days of hearings.

Among objectors are West Midlands Fire Service, which is concerned about the impact of the line on its £20 million headquarters in Birmingham. There will also be hearings concerning the petitions of Birmingham City Council and Centro, both supporters of HS2.

# Nigerian solar deal could help fraudster pay his debts

**A FRAUDSTER pocketed more than £150,000 from property owners on the promise of carrying out building work which was never completed, a court heard.**

Former company director Mark Ware, aged 50, was arrested after several dissatisfied customers — some from Dudley and Stourbridge — made complaints to Central England Trading Standards over money for building projects on their homes that were not completed.

The fraud involved a total of £157,995 and Ware's victims were left suffering from stress and financial hardship, Birmingham Crown

Court was told. Ware initially denied two counts of fraudulent trading and three counts of VAT fraud but after a trial got under way in April, Ware admitted the offences.

The judge was told Ware had since landed a new job and was in negotiations for a multi-million pound solar panels deal, due to be signed by the Nigerian president Goodluck Jonathan.

Mr Nicholas Cole, prosecuting, said Ware, formerly of Redditch, set up a number of companies in 2006, including Ware Plastics Limited, that generated a large number of complaints. Among the victims were a couple from Dudley who paid Ware the deposit towards £13,395 of work on their home in 2008 to include VAT. It later emerged his businesses were not registered with HM Revenue and Customs and no tax returns

were made. Sub contractors walked off the job telling the family that they had not been paid.

Mr Martin Butterworth, defending, said Ware's problems were triggered by difficulties relating to work on a restaurant that incurred a £50,000 debt prior to January 2010.

Giving evidence on oath Ware's new boss Andrew McPherson, of Renewables Trading Company, said Ware had a deal with the Nigerian Government worth £335 million to supply solar panels. If it goes ahead Ware would earn £2m.

Judge Mary Stacey adjourned the hearing until July 7 to give the company time to secure the deal, and said consideration may be given to Ware, of Newick Avenue, Sutton Coldfield, for a suspended jail term if the sums owed were repaid. He was granted unconditional bail.

## Theatre group's RSC partnership

A THEATRE company working with learning disability actors has been chosen for a partnership with the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Side by Side theatre company in Stourbridge is part of the RSC's open stages project for the second time.

The RSC is working with 100 amateur companies creating their own Shakespeare themed production to receive mentoring. Members of Side by Side have been selected thanks to their production Illyria-on-Sea, their version of Twelfth Night.

Company director Susan Wallin says the partnership is a 'triumph of inclusion'. The play will be performed at Stourbridge Town Hall June 25 to 28. Tickets cost £8 (£6 concessions on June 27) and up to four children are free with a paying adult on June 28. Tickets from The French Deli in Coventry Street or call 07880 437117.

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# Art dream to become a reality for Keith



Keith Maiden – debut collection

**HE has long harboured dreams of becoming a professional artist and now a former factory worker is to launch his debut collection.**

Keith Maiden, who grew up in Ashmore Park, Wolverhampton, first set his sights on a life in the creative world in his school days sketching on friends' exercise books as a youngster at Coppice High School.

But he was forced to put his ambitions on the backburner when he shunned a place at art college to work in a factory to earn a living to help his parents. Now his dream is finally set to become reality after he signed an art deal with the UK leading art publisher Washington Green Fine Art.

"I was starting to give up hope of



One of Keith's portraits, entitled Beth

making a serious career in art," said the 52-year-old, who now lives in Shrewsbury. "We didn't have a lot of money when I was a kid and like most people I went out to work after I had finished school.

The reality is you can't just stop working and drop everything to paint. It took a few years but eventually with hard work and a bit of luck everything came together."

### Redundant

His route to the top started as a junior graphic designer at Prontaprint in Chapel Ash and almost 20 years in retail design, firstly at IKEA in London and then with DSG International.

After being made redundant his wife Von went out to work and Keith became a house husband, looking after his son Levi, now aged 19 who has cerebral palsy and learning difficulties.



This portrait is entitled Lilly

"Of course being out of work was a big blow but positives came out of it," continued Keith. "I got to spend quality time with my son and I started drawing and painting again. Basically I was painting for 'beer money', then everything just turned on its head."

The defining moment came when he took some of his portraits to get them framed at a gallery in Shrewsbury.

"A guy was there picking up a mirror and he told me that he really liked my stuff," added Keith. "He turned out to be an art collector of some repute and he ended up forging the link between me and Washington Green."

Keith's first exhibition, White & Black is at Birmingham's ICC on Saturday. "My wife is the inspiration behind the collection," he said. "She went back to work as an interior designer which enabled me to spend the time working on my art."

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## Back to 1940s for rail nostalgia

CLOCKS are being turned back to the war years as the Severn Valley Railway prepares to stage Blackout, Blitz and Battle of Britain. The nostalgic weekends on June 28-29 and July 5-6 will see visitors transported to the 1940s.

A Blackout Fair, featuring one of the oldest wooden helter-skelters in the world, will be a star attraction. 'Evacuation trains' will run throughout the four days as the railway's collection of locomotives is fired up to take passengers along the 16-mile line from Kidderminster to Bridgnorth.

Stations will be transformed as re-enactment groups provide visitors with an insight into 1940s Britain, including air-raid shelters, entertainment from crooners and even a 1940s wedding. A replica Spitfire will draw crowds to Arley and, on June 29, there will be a Battle of Britain Memorial Flight flypast, weather permitting.

Call 01562 757900 or visit [www.svr.co.uk](http://www.svr.co.uk) website for further details.

## Mountains challenge to help macaques



Stephanie Sawyer and Nicola Wright practice pitching

TWO zoo keepers will be taking on a mountainous challenge to raise funds for critically-endangered primates.

Nicola Wright and Stephanie Sawyer, who work at Dudley Zoo, will be tackling the Three Peaks Challenge on July 5 in aid of Sulawesi crested black macaques.

They will be climbing the three highest mountains in the UK - Scotland's Ben Nevis, Snowdonia in Wales and Scafell Pike in Cumbria in just 24 hours.

Nicola, aged 31, from Stourbridge, said: "We're joining ten other keepers from five zoo collections around the UK for the climb in aid of Selamatkan Yaki. It is a conservation, research and education programme in Indonesia which is working to save the species."

The girls will be walking for a total of 13 hours with only a few hours' sleep in their tent.

Stephanie, aged 26, from Stourton, said: "We've never done anything like this before, so it's a bit daunting, but we're looking forward to it."

The Macaque Mountaineers fundraising page can be found at [virginmoneygiving.com](http://virginmoneygiving.com)

## Home eviction threat sees crisis calls rocket

THE number of people in the West Midlands calling a housing charity fearing they could lose their homes has almost doubled, new figures have revealed.

Housing charity Shelter, which runs a helpline for people at risk of homelessness, said there had been a huge rise in the number of calls from people renting their homes and at risk of eviction.

During the year up until the end of March, the charity had received 408 calls from tenants in the West Midlands at risk of homelessness, up from 208 for the previous year.

Bosses said that of particular concern was the number of 'revenge' evictions, where people were turfed out of their homes because they had asked for repairs to be carried out.

Nadeem Khan, an adviser for the charity's helpline, said: "We're hearing from family after family who are living in fear that just one complaint to their landlord could lead to them being kicked out."

# Half million calls to NHS 111 helpline in just seven months

**A TOTAL of 500,000 calls have been made to the NHS 111 phone line in the West Midlands since the region's ambulance service took over the contract last year.**

Health chiefs have announced that they reached the landmark figure exactly seven months to the day since they took over as the providers of NHS 111 in the region.

West Midlands Ambulance Service, based in Brierley Hill, has been running 111 since November 11, after previous providers NHS Direct decided to opt out of their contract.

The 111 team is based at a control centre at the Waterfront with about 170 health advisers.

The number is used by those who need medi-

cal help fast but not is not serious enough for a 999 emergency.

The helpline is aimed at reducing pressure on GPs and hospital accident and emergency departments.

Bosses say they have revamped the training programme and made changes to the way the call centre operates.

NHS 111 providers have a number of key targets, including the number of calls answered within 60 seconds and the number of calls that are abandoned by the caller.

Across the 500,000 calls, WMAS has answered 96.8 per cent within 60 seconds, beating the target of 95 per cent, while 0.4 per cent have been abandoned, against a target of achieving less than five per cent.

NHS 111 (West Midlands) director Daren Fradgley said: "Landmarks such as this provide us with a chance to reflect on how far we have come since taking over the 111 service and there are a lot of good things to look back on."

"We initially managed to stabilise the service in a short space of time ahead of the busy Christmas period and our performance levels have remained high ever since."

"A lot of people have put in a lot of hard work to help restore the public's faith in the service, for which I am extremely grateful. As we look ahead to the next 500,000 calls we will strive to continue making improvements and providing the best service possible."

One of the busiest days was on Good Friday when it received more than 6,000 calls.

## Manor Way speeder fined

A MOTORIST was handed a £400 fine and six penalty points after being caught speeding along a busy main road.

Iqbal Singh Dhillion was stopped by police after being clocked driving at 67mph past Halesowen Athletics and Cycling Club on the A456 Manor Way, Halesowen. The road has a 40mph speed limit.

### Trial

Dhillion, aged 37, of Grange Hill, Halesowen, had denied speeding but was found guilty following a trial held at Dudley Magistrates Court. As well as being fined £400 for the offence, he was also ordered to pay £200 costs to the court plus a £40 victim surcharge as well.

Sergeant Martin Hall from Halesowen police said the wet weather on the day of the offence could have led to a serious crash.



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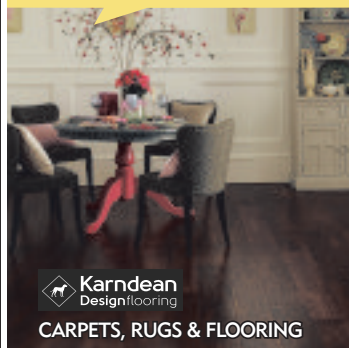
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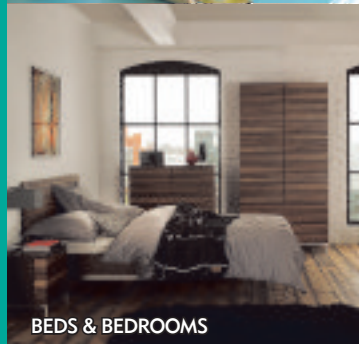
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**JEAN** petite female who enjoys golf, days out, cosy evenings in, holidays, WLTM older male in his 60's with a good personality and big heart. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412359

**JULIE** really fun loving slim pretty female 38 looking for nice guy to go out with, get to know and hopefully enjoy a relationship with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411517

**CHRISTINA**, curvy beauty, 27yrs, own home, very very adventurous seeks no strings fun and fun. Can accommodate and will answer all calls. Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box 410127

**GWENDOLINE** honest, trustworthy, seeks caring gent who enjoys cinema, theatre, holidays and nights out for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412293

**DIANE** voluptuous curvy and all woman, loves dancing, walking, cosy nights in, WLTM nice man for friendship, hopefully leading to something more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412321

**SAM**, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1949 Box 408297

**SARA** bored blonde looking for single gents for fun, chats and meets, looking forward to hearing from you, don't be shy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412055

**EMMA** petite young looking 31yr old attractive single brunette, loves walking, talking, music, seeks honest romantic 30-40yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412037

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**ANNABELL** 29 slim sophisticated well travelled interesting sensual fit brunette with lots to offer seeks older male to appreciate and treat me well. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412177

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**WIDOW** 68, 5ft 5ins, medium build, attractive, likes walks, reading, holidays, seeks sincere, N/S male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411745

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**TINA** sexy black female looking for healthy distractions with fun adult companion, interested? You won't be disappointed, give me a call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411519

**LYNNE** young looking attractive Indian female with GSOH and down to earth attitude, looking for likeminded male for date nights, hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412119

**EMMIE** 50, attractive brunette, 5ft 3ins, OHAC, likes country walks, music, reading, seeks genuine, friendly, professional male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411281

**RETIRED** happy, caring, attractive female, likes gardening, travel, animals, comedy, seeks tall, funny, kind chap, Shropshire. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411459

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**SUE** 34, likes most things in life, even football! Looking for my Mr Wonderful thought I would give this a try. Come on what do we have to loose, call me. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410765

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**KATHERINE** 35yr old outgoing single female looking to enjoy dates with similar male also looking for fun times in or out. Age, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410565

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**JEN** attractive sensual petite blonde with OHAC seeks confident fit professional male to enjoy and share good times, if that's you pls get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410949

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**JANE** attractive, feminine open-minded mature female genuinely looking for adult fun. No time wasters please. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409715

**JILL** 50, attractive, 5ft, blonde, own home, no ties, likes films, reading, travel, music, good social circle, seeking that someone special. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410105

**ATTRACTIVE** professional lady, 56, enjoys country walks, meals out, seeks professional gent with GSOH to enjoy the good things in life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408955

**MARIA** gorgeous outgoing bbw 27, good fun, caring, romantic, looking for that special someone to share life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408733

**ELAINE** attractive 39yr old blonde single mum seeking respectful male/dad with similar interests for adult friendship, hopefully leading to love. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410117

**DONNA** 27yrs blue eyed blonde with cute dimpled smile, loves socialising but looking for that special someone with GSOH to cuddle up with, enjoy fun/good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409733

**MARGARET** OHAC, professional, sincere, adventurous, loving, kind, solvent lady who enjoys most things WLTM caring male with similar refined tastes. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407925

**ATTRACTIVE** 49yr old divorced lady, looking for honest, reliable man for LTR, 49-60. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409555

**ABBA** girl blonde lookalike, size 16, attractive, bubbly, OHAC, seeking solvent, refined, handsome guy with full head of hair, 5ft 9ins plus, professional and courteous. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409151

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**BUBBLY** 60 plus lady, slim, fair hair, comfy in jeans and leather jacket, seeks similar male for friendship etc. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408859

**JOANNA** 34, in need of tic, winning, dining being treated like the princess I am, looking for sugar daddy, that someone special to love me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408869

**KIM** attractive single lady new to area looking for meet new friends and maybe a new love interest. I have many hobbies and am interesting to know, pls call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408489

**TAYLOR** attractive very busty curvy black female looking for fun times with open-minded male who is also looking for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408311

**BETHANY** 25yr old blonde, slim size 10 with great personality, looking for nice guy to share my life with, single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408253

**KIRSTY** blonde black eyed size 12 nurse, enjoys cosy nights, driving, holidays, socialising, WLTM broadminded male for adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409255

**KATH** blonde independent female, employed with OHAC looking for fun and laughter with likeminded nice easy going male, any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407955

**TRACY** slim dark haired beauty, petite, hardworking career, enjoys dancing, nights out, WLTM loving male who can make me laugh for an adult relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409419

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**ANITA** very attractive black female, seeking mature white/Asian man to enjoy uncomplicated relationship with no ties. Any age, pls contact me, I'm very lonely. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408505

**HI** I'm Pam, cuddly, attractive, self-sufficient, employed, looking for similar young looking, sincere male for hopeful ltr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407933

**FEMALE** many interests, seeks male, 40-55 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408537

**28YR** old female, seeking male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408639

**MIXED** raced lady, 34, widely travelled, seeking gent, 30-40 for romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408429



**68YR** old lady, likes gardening, meals out, days out, looking for sincere gent to share time with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408413

**JENNY** single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friends. Only genuine calls. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408285

**CHRIS** blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible ltr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407615

**ATTRACTIVE** female, young 49, 5ft 7ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, genuine, loyal, easygoing, GSOH, seeks tall, handsome male, 40-50 for fun times, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406135

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**CAROL** 36, looking for older experienced gent 50-70yrs for fun times only, discretion assured and expected. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401853

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**MALE** 50, looking for soul mate for friendship and see what happens. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 411181

**MALE** seeking female companion for outings, friendship and holidays. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412705

**STEPHEN** 58, good looking, likes art, travel, seeking female, 50 plus for companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412633

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**TONY** 52, dark hair, white male, 6ft, confident, GSOH, seeks black female. Genuine ad. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412481

**TALL** 42yr old sincere male, caring, honest, loving, seeking female, 30-40 for fun, friendship and good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412483

**COUNTRY** loving businessman, honest, medium build, N/S, OHAC, seeks professional, genuine, caring, honest, N/S female for loving relationship, 45-55. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412445

**ALAN** tall widower, 76, looking for female of similar age who enjoys meals out, holidays, walks and holidays. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412261

**ROY** mid 60's, N/S, car driver, young outlook, seeks lady for friendship. West Bromwich area. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412083

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**MARK** fun loving, easy going, fair hair blue eyes, athletic, tanned, looking for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411989

**FIT** bubbly male, athletic, blue eyes, short fair hair, easy going, loving, GSOH, seeking female for no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411901

**TALL** attractive Shrewsbury male, 54, seeks attractive female for fun and excitement in the daytime. Discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411823

**TIGER** Woods lookalike, seeking pretty BBW for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411801

**MALE** 74, fit, N/S, OHAC, seeks slim lady of similar age for days out, holidays and walks. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411673

**TALL** mature male, seeks younger, attractive mixed race lady for spoiling and pampering. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411505

**PHIL** genuine male, 57, OHAC, looking for female, any race, status and age for no strings discreet fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411461

**DEE** 49, divorced, handsome, fit, slim, seeks lady, any age for lasting, meaningful relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411415

**MARK** 5ft 11ins, blond hair, blue eyes, slim-medium build, athletic, likes nights in/out, socialising, meals out, pubs, seeks female with similar interests and GSOH for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411335

**MALE** 67, seeking lady 30-50 for friendship/companionship and occasional days/nights out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411293

**INTELLIGENT** sincere Shropshire male, slim, young 60's, playfully assertive, seeking complimentary, responsive, feminine lady, 50-60's who enjoys music, books, the arts and countryside. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411268

**EASY** going male 45, likes sports, seeks female for relationship. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411541

**5FT** 6ins male, dark hair/eyes, glasses, likes meals out, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411455

**PAUL** 62, seeks attractive Wolverhampton lady for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410799





## Majority call for immigration cut

NEARLY two thirds of people in the West Midlands want immigration to fall 'a lot' while half say it has been bad for Britain, a survey reveals today.

In an annual report on British social attitudes, 46 per cent of people said Britain's cultural life had been generally undermined by migrants and 52 per cent thought it had been bad for the economy.

Asked if the number of immigrants to Britain should change, 63 per cent of people in the West Midlands said it should fall 'a lot'. The West Midlands was broadly in line with the rest of the country, however, only 26 per cent of people in inner London felt the same way.

The survey is the 31st annual report by NatCen Social Research, Britain's largest independent social research organisation.

# 350 more paramedics being taken on as 999 calls rocket

**AN EXTRA 350 paramedics have been taken on by West Midland Ambulance Service to boost staff levels amid soaring numbers of emergency calls.**

The first 200 will start work by Christmas with the rest following by next March, said chief executive Anthony Marsh.

They will be a mixture of fully-qualified, graduate and student paramedics, spread across the region.

Mr Marsh, speaking at the trust's council of

governors meeting, said: "The recruitment has taken place to replace staff which retire and to keep up with the increase in call-outs the service receives across the region.

"It will also mean we can keep improving the capability of our front-line service and provide a better service."

Year on year the service has been receiving a four-and-a-half per cent increase in emergency calls but Mr Marsh said this year the service was experiencing an even higher increase.

The trust already has about 1,500 paramedics covering the region, which includes Birming-

ham, the Black Country, Staffordshire and Worcestershire.

The recruitment announcement comes just a month after the service was handed a £2.6 million fine for failings over strict response targets, which are within eight minutes for serious emergency incidents.

Out of the £2.6million fine, the service was told to pay £800,000, and invest the remaining £1.8million in improving response times.

Trust spokesman Murray McGregor said the service had improved this year and was now exceeding targets on response times.

## Midnight walk in Wyre Forest

THE Wyre Forest will be alive with the sound of music during a charity Midnight Walk in aid of Kemp Hospice on Saturday. Folk and rock trio High Horses, from Birmingham, will perform a selection of songs at the family event to entertain those limbering up for their five kilometre walk through the forest.

Kemp Hospice needs to raise £940,000 to enable it to continue providing its range of adult and child services.

Kate Wilkinson, events fundraiser, said: "The walk will begin at the stroke of midnight, with registration £10 per person and open to all women from 12-years-old upwards." Call Kate Wilkinson on 01562 756077 or email [kate.wilkinson@kemhospice.org.uk](mailto:kate.wilkinson@kemhospice.org.uk)

## Surprise party for Ellen's 100th



Ellen Sideaway celebrates with Mayor Councillor Margaret Aston and Consort Councillor Adam Aston

A FORMER dressmaker from Lye has had a perfect birthday party that was made to measure.

Ellen Sideaway celebrated her 100th birthday with friends and family at a surprise party at Age Concern's Stourbridge and Halesowen Branch on the Hagley Road.

The centenarian was left in shock when she entered the room to find it full of balloons and the smiling faces of her friends.

She said: "I told them not to make a fuss of my birthday but it has been such a lovely day. I have been so lucky and had a wonderful life. It's nice to be able to spend my birthday with so many friends.

The grandmother-of-two was born in Lye in 1914 just before the outbreak of the First World War and spent her youth gin the town. When she left school she went to work for a dressmaker's in Allison Street,

Birmingham, and married her sweetheart Stan at Stamberhill Church near their home in Wollescote.

She said: "Me and Stan had a wonderful marriage. I think the secret to my long life is that I had a happy and healthy childhood."

The birthday girl was treated to a special cake and music from a Ukelele Band. Her son Colin who lives in Yorkshire, visited to wish her a happy birthday.

Margaret Farrington, manager at the centre said: "She told me not to make a fuss, but I couldn't ignore her 100 birthday. Her face when she came in made it all worthwhile."

Well wishers included Dudley Mayor Councillor Margaret Aston, the centre's president Derrick Ellis and its Chairman Councillor Ken Turner.

## £250k grant for furniture project

A PIONEERING partnership working across Worcestershire and the Black Country has successfully secured Big Lottery funding of more than £250,000.

The partnership is led by Community Action Wyre Forest, which includes Worcestershire's first social firm Community Support Initiatives, award-winning social change company Regeneration Communities, and Forgotten Favourites, an emerging firm using environmentally friendly products to recycle unwanted furniture.

It will see people working to refurbish unwanted items of household furniture which will then be donated to people in need.

Furniture Refurbishment, Education, Development & Support, known as FREDS, has two bases – one in Kidderminster and one in Stourbridge – but also provides outreach sessions in community venues.

For further details or to donate items, call 01562 67008.

## It's Ward of the worlds

FORMER X Factor winner Shayne Ward is in an all-star cast for Jeff Wayne's musical version of The War of The Worlds staged in Birmingham later this year.

The show, on its sixth and final UK arena tour, also features Wolverhampton X Factor star Joseph Whelan. Coming to the LG Arena in Birmingham on December 5, it will also feature Westlife's Brian McFadden, Jason Donovan and West End star Carrie Hope Fletcher. Tickets are priced from £49.

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## 'Idiot' jibe leads to MP's apology

A BLACK Country MP had to apologise in the House of Commons after calling another MP an 'idiot'.

Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin made the comment about Bournemouth East Conservative MP Tobias Ellwood during a debate.

Ed Balls, shadow chancellor, had referred to figures about the number of 18 to 24-year-olds claiming Job Seekers Allowance in Bournemouth. But he was interrupted by Mr Ellwood and accused of getting the figures wrong. Mr Austin then referred to him as 'the idiot from Bournemouth'.

He was asked to apologise by the deputy speaker. Mr Austin responded: "Madam Deputy Speaker, I would like to apologise to you."

## Children invited to a Wacky party

A CHILD-FRIENDLY pub chain is inviting Black Country youngsters and their parents to what it hopes will be the world's largest free party.

The Wacky Warehouses in Oldbury, Willenhall and Tettenhall will be hosting the event to mark their 20th anniversary. More than 5,000 youngsters are expected to join events across the country on Friday, June 27, between 5pm and 7pm, and there will be cakes, games and prizes.

Andrew Matthews, general manager of the One & Two Halves in Oldbury said: "We're planning a bumper load of fun and games and it's all for free."

# Work to prepare the way for a new glass museum

**THE first stage of a multi-million project to restore a fire-ravaged former glass factory has been announced.**

Repairs are needed at the Stuart Crystal site in Wordsley which has been earmarked for a £5million glass museum.

The buildings, off Camp Hill, have been targeted by vandals since a major blaze ripped through it in 2011. The most recent arson attack was in April when cardboard and other rubbish was set alight.

A large hole has been left in the roof in one of the buildings and floors have also collapsed.

## Historic

Site owners Complex Developments Ltd has now submitted plans to Dudley Council to carry out the first phase of repair work. Director Ian Harrabin said he hoped the work could start within the next three-four months.

The application lodged with Dudley Council states: "The buildings have unfortunately suffered a deterioration in condition since vacated. There is the constant issue of vandalism and several arson attacks which have resulted in the deterioration of the historic structure."

"The structures are in a dangerous condition and the proposals seek to carefully take down the collapsed roof and floor structures and to re-build these structures to

follow the mass and form of the original buildings."

A second planning application for the full museum project will be submitted later.

Wordsley councillor Derrick Hemingsley has welcomed the project, saying: "It will be a marvellous improvement to the area. It should be fantastic when the museum is open."

Plans have been in the pipeline for five years for the glass museum on the site linked to the nearby Red House Glass Cone via an underground tunnel.

It will house collections from across the Black Country including from Broadfield House in Kingswinford.

The firm is waiting to hear the outcome of a bid for £2.15m from the European Regional Development Fund towards the project.

The museum plans are being led by Complex Development Projects, which owns the land, and Dudley Council in partnership with the British Glass Foundation.

## Brave mother on her marks for charity



Teacher Rajvinder Kaur, who will be taking part in Race for Life, with Paula Young from Cancer Research

A TEACHER undergoing chemotherapy is set to inspire thousands of women at a Race for Life event.

Mother Kaur was due to sound the starter horn for the cancer charity race in Wolverhampton's West Park this week. Next she will take part in Himley Hall's 5k Race for Life on July 13, just three days after her last chemotherapy session for Hodgkins Lymphoma.

The inspirational Miss Kaur has spent four months undergoing treatment for Hodgkins Lymphoma, writ-

ing a blog to help family and friends come to terms with her shock diagnosis. Three weeks of radiotherapy will follow the Himley Hall race before Rajvinder finishes her treatment.

The 33-year-old, from Wolverhampton teaches at Thorns Primary School in Brierley Hill and is urging people to join her raising money for Cancer Research UK.

"If it wasn't for research the doctors wouldn't know which treatment was right for me, so I feel very fortunate," said Rajvinder who has a three-year-

old daughter, Deep. "Taking part in Race for Life is my way of raising money and awareness as well as giving something back."

Around 130,000 people were expected to walk, jog or run around West Park in yesterday's event.

Rajvinder said: "I remember sitting in the cancer ward thinking this doesn't look good. I decided I was just going to get through it because I have a three-year-old daughter. Miss Kaur has already raised £400 for Cancer Research UK."

## Aldi search for more apprentices in region

A COLLEGE will help Aldi recruit new apprentices via a skills shop.

Birmingham Metropolitan College's Black Country Skills Shop has teamed up with the chain of budget supermarkets.

Originally a German chain, Aldi is looking to take on 18 more staff from the West Midlands as part of its national recruitment programme of 500 apprentices.

The skills shops, based at the Merry Hill Centre, is part of the National Skills Academy for Retail and will assist Aldi with the application process and identifying suitable candidates.

## Website

Details of how to apply for the Aldi Apprentice Scheme can be found on Aldi's recruitment website, with candidates expected to start on the scheme from the start of September.

Aldi initially launched its National Apprentice Scheme in February 2012, and has since created more than 500 jobs to attract young people who did not want to go to university towards a management career in retail.

Aldi apprentices are trained in all aspects of retail management within three years.

By the end of the scheme, the most successful apprentices will have the opportunity to progress to the position of assistant store manager with a salary of £23,700.

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# Baby elephant named as a tribute to Stephen

A BABY elephant whose mother was pictured with cancer hero Stephen Sutton has been named after the inspirational teenager in a tribute by safari park bosses.

Stephen ticked off one of the items of his 'bucket list' when he hugged an animal bigger than himself at West Midlands Safari Park in January.

The 19-year-old was captured on camera with the elephant – named Five – with its trunk affectionately wrapped around him in the animal's enclosure.

On May 5 the 22-year-old elephant gave birth to a male calf – the first to be born at the park near Kidderminster in its 41-year history.

And after running a social media competition to name the 20-stone calf, keepers have now named their new arrival Sutton in honour of the heroic teenager.

## Legacy

They received thousands of nominations for the little cutie to be named in Stephen's honour.

Director of Wildlife Bob Lawrence said: "This is a fitting tribute to an inspirational young man who captured the hearts and minds of so many for his remarkable achievements."

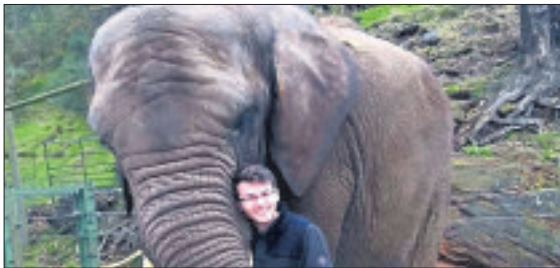
"Stephen and his mother Jane met Five in January before the calf was born. It was number 30 on Stephen's bucket list to 'hug an animal that is bigger than me'. In the event, I think Stephen's legacy has turned into something even bigger."

He added: "There is also another remarkable side to this story. The calf's father – a bull elephant from South Africa – is called Steve."

Baby elephant Sutton is now six weeks old and weighs over 130 kg.



Mother Five and baby elephant Sutton, named in Stephen's honour



Stephen Sutton ticked an item off his bucket list when he got a hug from Five. On the same day inspirational Staffordshire teenager Stephen Sutton was awarded an MBE, it was fitting that thousands of people gave him the thumbs up at a festival held in his memory on Saturday.

A festival packed with music and entertainment was held at Burntwood Rugby Club in memory of the brave 19-year-old who lost his battle

with cancer last month. Around 3,000 people packed into the grounds of the sports club in aid of the Teenage Cancer Trust.

Stephen was included in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours. He accepted the honour before his death on May 14, declaring it 'awesome' and giving it his trademark 'thumbs-up'.

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## Jumping at chance for ideas on careers

YOUNG people and adults are being invited to a careers fair that is expected to help hundreds of people find employment and training opportunities.

Jump Start Your Future is aimed at 15-24 year olds who are looking for employment, apprenticeships, traineeships and college courses.

The event is being held by Sandwell Council and Connexions Sandwell next Friday from 12.30-3pm at the Town Hall, High Street, West Bromwich.

Up to 30 local colleges and training providers will be showcasing the opportunities that they have available.

Colleges attending include Sandwell, Dudley, Walsall and Birmingham Metropolitan.

Land Rover, Juniper Training and Rathbone will also be attending the event offering apprenticeships in a range of sectors from motor mechanics to construction and business administration to health and social care.

Subat Khan, Connexions and National Careers Service Manager said: "This is the ideal event for young people and adults who are looking for opportunities that start immediately. The event will be invaluable to young people who are due to leave Year 11."

National Careers Service and Connexions advisers will also be on hand to provide free, impartial, careers advice and support. Call Connexions Sandwell on 0800 358 4800 or follow them on Facebook.

# Being Frank, he shares his joy at Dr Who coup

**BLACK Country star and Baggies fan Frank Skinner is to finally fulfill a lifetime's ambition – to guest star in an episode of Doctor Who.**

The comic, born in Oldbury, has been a fan of the sci-fi series since it started 50 years ago. He was thrilled to play a Dalek operator in the internet homage The Five(ish) Doctors Reboot by Peter Davidson, but said he still wanted to appear in an actual BBC1 episode.

**By Graeme Andrew**

Now his wish has been granted by TV boss Steven Moffat.

Frank, aged 57, will appear in the new series in the autumn, as the newly-regenerated Doctor, played by Peter Capaldi, takes on the unenviable task of following in Matt Smith's footsteps.

It has not yet been revealed what sort of part he will play. Frank said: "I am beyond excited."

### Ambition

"I love this show. I subscribe to Dr Who magazine, I've got a Tardis ringtone and a five-foot cardboard Dalek in my bedroom."

Earlier this year Frank was part of The Five(ish) Doctors Reboot. The production, which was available on the BBC's red button service, has been written and directed by former Doctor Peter Davison, with a sharp eye on the comedy of playing the character and co-starring Colin Baker, Sylvester McCoy and Paul McGann.

At the time: "My greatest ambition is to appear in Doctor Who. This is as close

as I've got, but I would do anything to be in an episode. I wouldn't even mind being in a monster suit so nobody knows it's me. I vividly remember watching the first episode and have loved it ever since."

Writer and producer Steven Moffat said: "Frank has been volunteering to be 'third monster on the left' as long as I've been in this job."

"But now, in Jamie Mathieson's sparkling script, we finally have a part that can showcase all of Frank's famous wit and charm."

"Hopefully he'll get out of my garden now."

Other guest stars confirmed to join Capaldi in the new series include fellow comedian and ex-Death In Paradise actor Ben Miller, Tom Riley, Keeley Hawes and Hermione Norris.

Frank is currently on his first stand-up comedy tour for seven years. Man In A Suit has already played Birmingham's Symphony Hall.



Dr Who fan Frank Skinner, who has secured a role



Peter Capaldi, who starts his time in the Tardis very soon

## Groups join to help ill youngsters

TWO of the best-known charities in the Midlands are joining forces to help children with cancer.

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham Charity and Help Harry Help Others have teamed up on the project.

Charity bosses aim to give hundreds of children who receive radiotherapy treatment at the QE Hospital each year a boost.

The hospital charity has launched a £250,000 VIP Treatment Appeal to make coming to hospital as pleasant as possible for young patients.

Help Harry Help Others charity, set up in memory of Birmingham youngster Harry Moseley, will support the appeal. It is donating £78,000 to the VIP Treatment Appeal which will fund a new paediatric recovery room in the QE. Call 0121 371 4852 for details.

## Sabbath are all set for award

BRUM rock superstar Ozzy Osbourne and his Black Sabbath bandmates are set to receive another award.

The 60-year-old singer will collect the AEG Live sponsored Ambassadors of Rock Award at the Nordoff Robbins O2 Silver Clef Awards next month.

Ozzy, Geezer Butler and Tony Iommi, are headlining as Sabbath at the British Summer Time concert in London's Hyde Park on July 4.

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## Dolphins singer has folk club gig

A WELSH singer/songwriter who had a major hit in the 1990s is preparing for a concert at a Black Country pub/folk venue later this month.

Martyn Joseph, who had a hit with Dolphins Make Me Cry, is performing in Stourbridge on Thursday, June 26. His 1993 album Being There was a major success and recently he has received airplay from BBC Radio 2's Bob Harris for latest album Songs For The Coming Home.

He is playing at the Stourbridge Folk Club at Katie Fitzgerald's, in Enville Street, Wollaston, from 8pm. Tickets are £15 in advance. Support is local singer/songwriter Sunjay Brayne. See [www.stourbridgefolkclub.com](http://www.stourbridgefolkclub.com)

## Fusion of martial arts and music

ANYONE who missed martial arts show Immortal Chi when it visited Wolverhampton this week get a second chance when the Chinese spectacle arrives for a one-night show in Birmingham this weekend. The blend of tradition, movie style fighting skills and the propulsive rhythms of Chinese girl drummers is staged at the New Alexandra Theatre on Sunday.

It features a 30-strong cast of martial artists, acrobats and musicians.

Tickets start at £25.75 for the 7.30pm show.

For tickets call 0844 871 3011.

# Record speed sell-outs for city's big autumn concerts

## Panto star in Grand entrance

THE countdown is on for this year's panto, Cinderella, at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, after star Julian Clary arrived in style at its official launch.

The Celebrity Big Brother winner made a flamboyant entrance as Dandini, rolling up in a fairytale carriage drawn by six white horses at the launch event. He warned that this year's pantomime will contain a sprinkling of the cheeky innuendo which has become his trademark.

Clary was joined at the Mount Hotel in Tettenhall by Alice Baker as Cinderella and Joe Tracini, who is playing Buttons. The Hollyoaks actor is following in the footsteps of his father Joe Pasquale, who starred in last year's record breaker Sleeping Beauty.

The show is from December 6 to January 18. Ticket sales are already ahead of the same time last year.



Julian Clary will play Dandini in Cinderella at the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton

## WOLVERHAMPTON Civic Halls are celebrating massive demand for several shows this autumn after comic John Bishop and rock band 1975 set records for fastest sell-outs.

The popular Civic and Wulfrun halls have long been a mainstay of the Midlands music scene and, more recently, the comedy circuit too but the arrival of online and phone bookings has meant queues for the box office are now rarely seen snaking around the linked North Street and Mitre Fold venues.

It was the line of music lovers, some camping out, that showed mass popularity of visiting acts but now gig-goers vie for tickets by a click of the mouse or a swipe of the smartphone screen.

Back in the 1980s and 90s folks queued when Morrissey played his first solo gig at the Civic Hall after The Smiths split (December 1988) and David Bowie visited as part of his Tin Machine band project (November 1991). More recently, there was a huge queue when the Arctic Monkeys came to Wolverhampton in April 2006.

When the tickets went on sale earlier this month for John Bishop's September 18 gig, a warm up for the Liverpool joker's next stadium tour, they sold out in ten minutes for the 643-seated capacity Wulfrun. On the same day Mancunian band 1975 saw their September



Huge demand – John Bishop 29 gig sold out in 21 minutes for the 3,000 standing capacity Civic.

Also set to sell out soon are the additional Jake Bugg gig when the Nottingham singer/songwriter performs on consecutive nights in October; so to are concerts by young soul singer John Newman, 2-Tone stars The Specials, flamboyant pop star Paloma Faith, Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbott of The Beautiful South, 80s stars Erasure, comedians Jimmy Carr and Lee Mack.

## Oh Boy it's the Buddy musical

THE golden age of rock 'n' roll will be remembered when Buddy, the West End hit musical on the all too short life of Buddy Holly, is performed at Birmingham Hippodrome from Monday to Saturday.

It begins a run of major musicals at the Hippodrome which host Cape Town Opera's production of Show Boat from July 2 to 5, before blockbuster Wicked arrives for a summer-long stint from July 9.

It has been announced that Tim Driesen will star as Frankie Valli when Jersey Boys comes to Birmingham on tour, staged at the New Alexandra from December 9 to January 3. Driesen has played the role in London and in the Dutch production.

## Duo's topsy turvy comic operettas

FANS of the light operettas of Gilbert & Sullivan have a rare opportunity to catch a professional production of some of the Victorians duo's most popular works.

The Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Company perform three of the best known works at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.

On Tuesday and Wednesday G&S poke fun at authority in The Pirates of Penzance; on Thursday and Friday it is the topsy-turvy tale of faeries rubbing shoulders with English lords in Iolanthe; and on Saturday the Japanese comic opera The Mikado. Call 01902 429212.

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CHOICE



Joachim Low

**Match of the Day Live (BBC1, 7.30pm)**  
Germany v Ghana (Kick-off 8.00pm). Coverage of the second World Cup Group G match for both sides, which comes from the Estadio Castelao in Fortaleza, Brazil. Germany have already faced Portugal in their opener and their opponents have taken on the USA in what promises to be a very closely fought battle for places in the last 16. The sides also met in the group stage of the 2010 World Cup in a match that made history when half-brothers Jerome and Kevin Prince-Boateng became the first siblings to face each other in a World Cup match. Jerome earned the bragging rights due to Germany recording a 1-0 win, but both teams progressed to the knockout rounds, where they produced some impressive performances. The Germans handed out thrashings to both England and Argentina on their way to a 1-0 semi-final defeat against eventual champions Spain. Meanwhile, the African outfit defeated the USA before suffering heartbreak in a penalty shootout against Uruguay in the quarter-finals, after Asamoah Gyan had missed from the spot in the last minute of extra time following Luis Suarez's intentional handball. Presented by Gary Lineker, with commentary by Guy Mowbray and Danny Murphy.

**10.10 BBC News:** Weather.

**10.30 The National Lottery Live.** Jenni Falconer reveals the results of the Lotto and the Thunderball.

**10.40 Match of the Day Live.** Nigeria v Bosnia-Herzegovina (Kick-off 11.00pm). Coverage of the second World Cup Group F match for both nations; National Lottery Update.

**1.10 Weatherview.** 1.15 BBC News.

BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast.** 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) 12.00 BBC News; Weather.

**12.15 Live Athletics.** The European Team Championships. 4.00 Bargain Hunt. (R) 4.45 Formula 1 – Austrian Grand Prix: Qualifying.

**6.00 Celebrity Mastermind.** (R)

**6.30 BBC News:** Regional News; Weather.

**6.50 A Question of Sport: Super Saturday.** New series. Jason Manford presents this spin-off of the light-hearted quiz to coincide with the World Cup, with celebrity guests joining team captains Matt Dawson and Phil Tufnell.

**7.30 Match of the Day Live.** Germany v Ghana (Kick-off 8.00pm). Coverage of the second World Cup Group G match for both sides, which comes from the Estadio Castelao in Fortaleza, Brazil. Germany have already faced Portugal in their opener and their opponents have taken on the USA in what promises to be a very closely fought battle for places in the last 16. The sides also met in the group stage of the 2010 World Cup in a match that made history when half-brothers Jerome and Kevin Prince-Boateng became the first siblings to face each other in a World Cup match. Jerome earned the bragging rights due to Germany recording a 1-0 win, but both teams progressed to the knockout rounds, where they produced some impressive performances. The Germans handed out thrashings to both England and Argentina on their way to a 1-0 semi-final defeat against eventual champions Spain. Meanwhile, the African outfit defeated the USA before suffering heartbreak in a penalty shootout against Uruguay in the quarter-finals, after Asamoah Gyan had missed from the spot in the last minute of extra time following Luis Suarez's intentional handball. Presented by Gary Lineker, with commentary by Guy Mowbray and Danny Murphy.

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**1.10 Weatherview.** 1.15 BBC News.

BBC2

**6.00 This Is BBC Two.** 6.20 Film: A Double Life. (1947) 8.00 MOTD Kickabout: World Cup 2014. 8.30 Brazil's Soccer Cities. 8.35 World Cup Films.

**10.00 Match of the Day:** FIFA World Cup Highlights. 10.45 Wimbledon Classics. 12.45 Tennis from Eastbourne. 3.30 Film: Triple Cross. (1966) 5.30 Natural World. (R)

**6.30 Flog It! Trade Secrets.** The experts offer advice on buying and selling military memorabilia related to the First World War, and Paul Martin visits the Gurkha Museum in Winchester.

**7.00 Fostering & Me with Lorraine Pascale.** The cookery writer and former model tracks down the people who cared for her when she was a child, examining the impact fostering had on her life and looking at the current system. (R)

**8.00 The Battle for Stonehenge: A Culture Show Special.** Alastair Sooke examines the conflict and controversy surrounding the prehistoric site, as druids, archaeologists and scientists fight to have their views on its future heard.

**9.00 I Love 1996.** Actress Amita Dhiri reflects on the year's pop-culture highs and lows, including her own role in hit BBC2 drama This Life and the emergence of Spice Girls on to the music scene. (R)

**10.00 Gimme Gimme Gimme.** Linda and Tom awake after a heavy night out to find a half-naked man in their flat. (R)

**10.30 The Mrs Merton Show.** First edition of the comedy chat show starring Caroline Aherne as the pensioner host, with guests Debbie McGee, Steve Coogan, Kriss Akabusi and Chris Greener. (R)

**11.00 Game On.** First episode of the comedy about three friends sharing a flat in London. Matthew arranges a surprise for Martin's birthday. Ben Chaplin, Matthew Cottle and Samantha Womack star. (R)

**11.30 TOTP2 Presents the 90s.** Steve Wright narrates a selection of music from the 1990s, with performances by Spice Girls, Michael Jackson, Pulp, the Prodigy, Madonna, Blur and Take That. (R)

**12.30 Film:** Houseguest. (1995) 2.15 Match of the day: FIFA World Cup Replay. 4.00 This is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00 CITV:** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. 6.25 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.50 Canimals. (R) 7.00 Canimals. (R) 7.05 Sooty. (R) 7.20 Digimon Fusion. (R) 7.45 Horrid Henry. (R) 8.00 Adventure Time. 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Weekend. 9.25 The Hungry Sailors. (R) 10.25 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 11.20 ITV News; Weather. 11.30 All Star Mr & Mrs. (R) 12.30 A Touch of Frost. (R) 2.30 Fool Britannia. (R) 3.00 Tipping Point. (R) 4.00 FIFA World Cup Live 2014. Argentina v Iran (Kick-off 5.00pm). All the action from both teams' second Group F fixture.

**7.15 Regional Programme:** Weather.

**7.20 ITV News:** Weather.

**7.30 You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill narrates a selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring a comical barbecue scene and a horse rider coming to grief, as well as the familiar line-up of crazy kids, practical jokers and painful-looking accidents. (R)

**8.30 Our Queen.** Feature-length documentary filmed throughout 2012, providing an in-depth portrait of Elizabeth II during her Diamond Jubilee year. Prince Charles and other members of the royal family share their stories, providing insights into the Queen's life over an important and busy 12 months filled with celebrations. The programme also reveals what really happens when the prime minister sits down with the monarch, and the lid is lifted on that memorable 007 moment at the London Olympic Games opening ceremony. (R)

**10.30 ITV News:** Weather.

**10.45 The Beatles: The Night That Changed America – A Grammy Salute.** Entertainment special commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Fab Four's ground-breaking first appearance on The Ed Sullivan Show and celebrating their legacy. Songs performed on that momentous evening in 1964, as well as Beatles hits through the years, are covered here by some of the biggest names in music. Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr team up for Hey Jude and With a Little Help from My Friends, while various presenters help highlight and contextualise the musical, cultural and historical impact of the band. (R)

**12.55 Jackpot247.** 3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 3.40 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

**6.05 Royal Ascot Highlights.** (R) 6.35 Trans World Sport. 7.30 The Grid. 7.55 Royal Ascot: The Morning Line. 9.00 Weekend Kitchen. 10.00 Frasier. (R) 10.30 Frasier. (R) 11.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.25 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.50 The Simpsons. (R) 12.20 The Simpsons. (R) 12.45 The Tomorrow People. 1.40 Royal Ascot: Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage of the final afternoon of the five-day festival.

**6.05 Jamie's Money Saving Meals.** Jamie Oliver rustles up pirri pirri pork belly with crackling. (R)

**6.35 Channel 4 News.**

**7.00 The Restoration Man.** George Clarke catches up with Dave and Margaret Hedley, who battled through flooding, serious illness and no fewer than 18 planning restrictions to restore an abandoned water mill in Northumberland. The presenter finds out whether the couple managed to complete their ambitious project and repair the 300-year-old water wheel that will eventually power their new home. Last in the series. (R)

**8.00 Grand Designs.** Kevin McCloud meets a pair of civil-partnered university professors who have decided to build their first home from scratch. In addition to all the complications this usually entails, Celia Brackenridge and Diana Woodward have also enlisted the services of industrial designers who have developed a new computer-assisted method for cutting precision-engineered building blocks from scratch. (R)

**9.00 Film: The Hunger Games.** (2012) Premiere. A totalitarian future-America holds an annual nationally televised event in which two children from each of its regions fight to the death until only one remains. A teenage girl takes her younger sister's place in the games and must pit her wits against the deadly combat skills of her rivals. Sci-fi adventure based on Suzanne Collins' novel, starring Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson and Woody Harrelson.

**11.50 Film: Saturday Night Fever.** (1977) A streetwise teenager escapes a mundane existence through the disco scene, where he falls for a girl with dreams of a bright future. Drama, with John Travolta and Karen Lynn Gorney.

**2.00 Royal Ascot Highlights.** 2.30 Film: Panic in the Streets. (1950) 4.10 Hollyoaks. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Access.** 10.15 Power Rangers Super Samurai. (R) 10.50 The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies. (R) 11.45 Big Brother: The Eviction. (R) 1.15 Film: Hitch. (2005) Romantic comedy, starring Will Smith and Eva Mendes. 3.30 Film: The Deep End of the Ocean. (1999) Drama, starring Michelle Pfeiffer. 5.45 Film: Columbo: A Case of Immunity. (1975) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk.

**7.00 Cricket on 5.** England v Sri Lanka. Mark Nicholas presents action from the second day of the Second Test in the two-match series.

**7.55 5 News Weekend.**

**8.00 The Abba Years.** Documentary exploring the history of the Swedish band and the careers of Agnetha Faltskog, Bjorn Ulvaeus, Benny Andersson and Anni-Frid Lyngstad after their split in 1982. The film charts their rise to fame after coming together as a band and winning the Eurovision Song Contest in 1974 with Waterloo, and the success in the years that followed, in which they sold 360 million records. Featuring interviews with all four members, and a look behind the scenes at the musical Mamma Mia! that shows Bjorn and Benny working with the theatre team. Featuring contributions by Bono and Pete Dinklage. (R)

**9.00 Big Brother.** Highlights of another 24 hours in the Big Brother house, including coverage of the latest eviction as seen from the point of view of the contestants, who share their diary-room thoughts on their recently departed friend – or enemy.

**10.00 Autopsy: Anna Nicole Smith's Last Hours.** Forensic pathologist Dr Richard Shepherd investigates the death of the model and actress, who died in February 2007 at the age of 39 from a drug overdose. Last in the series. (R)

**11.00 Big Brother's Bit on the Psych.** Ryan Clark and Iain Lee present analysis of the housemates' behaviour, with input from psychologists and body-language experts.

**12.00 SuperCasino.** 3.10 Angry Britain: Get Off My Land. (R) 4.00 House Doctor. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 4.50 The Funky Valley Show. (R) 5.00 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.10 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 5.20 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.30 The Funky Valley Show. (R) 5.40 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Three**

**7.00** Great Movie Mistakes 2: The Sequel  
**7.05 Film:** Madagascar (2005) **8.30** Doctor Who **9.30** Edinburgh Comedy Fest Live 2011 **10.30** Russell Howard's Good News **11.00** Family Guy **1.15** American Dad! **2.00** Badtuts **2.30** Russell Howard's Good News

**BBC Four**

**7.00** Swarm: Nature's Incredible Invasions **8.00** The Story of Science – Power, Proof and Passion **9.00** Wallander **10.30** Stonehenge: Timewatch **11.25** When Wrestling Was Golden: Grapples, Grunts and Grannies **12.25** Top of the Pops: 1979 **1.00** Country at the BBC **2.00** Swarm: Nature's Incredible Invasions

**ITV2**

**12.50 Film:** Flipper (1996) **2.40** You've Been Framed Rides Again! **3.40** Funnies! Ever You've Been Framed! **4.45 Film:** Arthur and the Great Adventure (2009) **6.55 Film:** The Munny: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **9.00 Film:** Underworld (2003) **11.25 Film:** Troy (2004) **2.30** Life's Funniest Moments **2.50** Teleshopping

**ITV3**

**12.05 Film:** The Railway Children (1970) **2.20** Agatha Christie's Marple **4.25** Midsomer Murders **6.25** Rosemary & Thyme **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** Bomb Girls **12.00** A Touch of Frost **1.55** Movies Now **2.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

**ITV4**

**12.30 Film:** Dragnet (1987) **2.35** British Superbike Championship Highlights **3.35** Film: The Appaloosa (1966) **5.40 Film:** Rooster Cogburn (1975) **7.55** Hornblower **10.00 Film:** Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas (1998) **12.25** Film: Species III (2004) **2.30** Nitro Circus **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store **E4**

**12.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **1.30** Rude (ish) Tube **2.30** How I Met Your Mother **3.30** Made in Chelsea **4.35** The Big Bang Theory **5.30** Rude (ish) Tube **6.30** How I Met Your Mother **7.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.30** How I Met Your Mother **9.00** Film: Wayne's World (1992) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory **11.30** Rude Tube: Viral Ads **12.35** 2 Broke Girls **1.00** How I Met Your Mother **2.00** The Ricky Gervais Show **3.50** Glee **4.35** Ugly Betty **Film4**

**11.00** The Man from Colorado (1948) **1.00** Taxi (2004) **2.55** Star Trek III: The Search for Spock (1984) **5.00** The Princess Diaries (2001) **7.15** Fast Girls (2012) **9.00** Shooter (2007) **11.25** Machete (2010) **1.30** Saw III (2006)



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## CHOICE



Billy Bob Thornton

## Fargo

(Channel 4, 9pm)

As the critically acclaimed US black comedy-drama concludes, Insurance Salesman of the Year Lester is once again trying to manipulate everyone around him, having already framed his own brother for the murders of his wife and Chief Thurman. Meanwhile, dogged deputy Molly takes the lead, hapless copper-turned-postman Gus pursues a hunch and contract killer Malvo finds a new target – not content with the misery he's already caused since arriving in Minnesota. Whose life will he turn upside down now? Martin Freeman, Billy Bob Thornton and Colin Hanks head the cast, with fantastic support from Allison Tolman, Bob Odenkirk, Keith Carradine, Joey King, Susan Park, Lorne Cardinal and Christopher Rosamond.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Countryfile. (R) **2.10** Flog It! (R) **2.55** Escape to the Country. **3.40** Points of View. **3.55** Songs of Praise. **4.30** Match of the Day Live. Belgium v Russia (Kick-off 5.00pm).

**7.05** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

**7.25** Countryfile. As Yorkshire gears up to host the start of the Tour de France, Countryfile is in and around the village of Oxenhope, near Bradford. Ellie Harrison gets on her bike and meets an artist using the Yorkshire hills as a giant canvas and tells the tale of a world-beating woman cyclist, while John Graven meets a cyclist who has immortalised England's steepest incline in grass. Tom Heap investigates the use of nicotine-based pesticides and the controversial ban on bee-killing insecticides, and Adam Henson sees how the farmland winner is getting on in Snowdonia. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

**8.15** Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team pay a return visit to the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts at the University of East Anglia. Norwich, where members of the public bring along treasured antiques and collectibles to hear their stories and find out their worth.

**9.15** Casualty. A man takes his daughter and her family on a surprise helicopter trip for her birthday, only for two late shooting birds from the cliffside to accidentally cause the chopper to crash. Zoe, Big Mac and Jeff attend the scene, where one of the passengers is trapped in the wreckage. Zoe details the department when journalists descend on the ED, eager for a story after the problems of last week – but her words don't impress Guy – and Lily is disappointed with Cal after hearing him showing off about their bedroom antics.

**10.05** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

**10.30** Match of the Day Live. USA v Portugal (Kick-off 11.00pm). The Arena Amazonia in Manaus, Brazil, plays host to the latest World Cup fixture.

**1.10** Weatherview. **1.15** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.00** This Is BBC Two. **6.20** Gardeners' World. (R) **6.50** The Beechgrove Garden. **7.20** Match of the Day: FIFA World Cup Highlights. **7.50** World Cup Films. **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** Wimbledon: Review. **11.13** 12.00 Live Athletics. The European Team Championships. **4.00** Rowing World Cup. **5.30** Ice Age Giants. (R)

**6.30** Tropic of Cancer. Simon Reeve witnesses the effect of extreme poverty on the people of Bangladesh, where children are put to work for as little as 30 pence a day. His journey down the River Padma shows the threat of climate change on the densely populated country as melting Himalayan ice prompts the collapse of its banks, and introduces him to the national sport of Kabaddi, from which he escapes with only minor injuries. (R)

**7.30** Formula 1 – Austrian Grand Prix: Highlights. Suzi Perry presents highlights of the eighth round of the season at the Red Bull Ring in Spielberg. It would be a major surprise if Mercedes duo Lewis Hamilton and Nico Rosberg were not challenging for maximum points here, having dominated the season so far. With commentary by Ben Edwards and David Coulthard.

**9.00** A Cabbie Abroad: Cambodia. New series. London cabbie Mason McQueen takes up the challenge of driving taxis in three very different cities around the world, beginning in the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh.

**10.00** Backchat Father's Day Special. Michael and Jack Whitehall are joined by chat show host Jonathan Ross, tennis coach Judy Murray, double Olympic champion Mo Farah and New Wiltshire from The Call Centre. Previously shown on BBC Three.

**10.30** Mock the Week. Rob Beckett, Gary Delaney, Sara Pascoe and Josh Widdicombe join regular panellists Hugh Dennis and Andy Parsons on the topical comedy quiz. Dara O Briain hosts. (R)

**11.05** 01 XL. Extended edition. With Jo Brand, Marcus Brigstocke and Danny Baker. (R)

**11.50** Sign Zone: Countryfile. The team visits Port Talbot, south Wales. (R)

**12.45** The Culture Show: Edward St Aubyn – At Last? (R) **1.15** Holby City. (R) **2.15** Match of the Day: FIFA World Cup Replay. **4.00** This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.20** Digimon Fusion. (R) **7.45** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.00** Deadline Stories. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** May the Best House Win. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.15** ITV News: Weather.

**11.25** Love Your Garden. (R) **12.30** Long Lost Family. (R) **1.30** Nature's Newborns. (R) **2.00** Files: Columbo: The Murder of a Rock Star. (1991) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk and Little Richard. **4.00** Tipping Point. (R) **5.00** Ejector Seat.

**6.00** Regional Programme; Weather.

**6.10** ITV News: Weather.

**6.25** Catchphrase Celebrity Special. Tim Vine, Mel Giedroyc and Ashley Roberts try to guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues and win cash for charity. Stephen Mulhern hosts. Last in the series.

**7.25** FIFA World Cup Live 2014. South Korea v Algeria (Kick-off 8.00pm). Coverage of the second Group H match for both sides, staged at the Estadio Beira-Rio in Porto Alegre, Brazil. This is one of only two groups without South American representation, with Belgium and Russia the other two nations involved, and this is likely to be seen as the best chance either team has of picking up a victory. This is the eighth consecutive finals for which the Koreans have qualified, but they have only made it past the group stage on two occasions, and one of those was when they co-hosted the tournament with Japan in 2002. Presented by Matt Smith, with commentary by Sam Matterface and Clarke Carlisle, and analysis by Gordon Strachan, Glenn Hoddle and Andros Townsend.

**10.15** ITV News: Weather.

**10.30** The New Statesman. The first episode of the classic political satire, starring the late Rik Mayall. Newly elected MP Alan B'Stard is blackmailed by the chief constable, who knows about his misdeeds. (R)

**11.00** Rik Mayall Presents: Dancing Queen. Comedy from 1983, starring the late Rik Mayall. (R)

**12.00** Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Lorraine Kelly. (R) **1.00** The Store. **2.45** Motorsport UK. **3.35** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.25** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

## CHANNEL 4

**6.10** Royal Ascot Highlights. (R) **6.35** Caterham at Zolder. **7.05** Blenheim Triathlon. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.30** The Simpsons. Lisa bumps into jazz legend Bleeding Gums Murphy. (R) **2.55** Film: Marmaduke. (2010) Comedy, starring Lee Pace. **4.40** Deal or No Deal. **5.45** Channel 4 News.

**6.15** Film: Mr Popper's Penguins. (2011) Premiere. A businessman's life is thrown into turmoil when he inherits six penguins from his explorer father. Family comedy, starring Jim Carrey, Carla Gugino and Angela Lansbury.

**8.00** Born in the Wild. In Borneo, Mark Evans and Joy Reidenberg explore the reproductive challenges of the orang-utan. The largest tree-dwellers in the world, these apes mate, give birth and raise their young high in the jungle canopy. At a sanctuary deep in the rainforest, Mark and Joy encounter a dominant male and uncover the latest scientific theories on how such "kings" exert their power over rivals and seduce females in their territory. The programme also witnesses an infant being born and reveals what it takes to raise one.

**9.00** Fargo. Insurance Salesman of the Year Lester tries to manipulate those around him, Molly takes the lead, Gus pursues a hunch and Malvo finds a new target. Last in the series.

**10.20** Film: The Social Network. (2010) Fact-based drama following internet billionaire Mark Zuckerberg's rise to wealth and fame. An online prank played on an ex-girlfriend gives Harvard student Zuckerberg the idea for Facebook, which soon expands away from the famous university into a worldwide phenomenon. However, in getting his project off the ground, he makes enemies of those who helped him along the way. Starring Jesse Eisenberg and Andrew Garfield.

**12.35** Film: The Hills Have Eyes 2. (2007) Horror sequel, starring Michael McMillan. (R) **1.00** Utopia. (R) **3.20** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **4.15** Food Unwrapped. (R) **4.40** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. (R) **4.50** Beat My Build. (R) **5.45** Deal or No Deal. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** City of Friends. (R) **7.45** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.35** Milkshake! Show Songs. (R) **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jam. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers Megaforce. (R) **10.35** Access. **10.40** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R) **11.40** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **12.40** Big Brother. (R) **1.35** Film: Legally Blondes. (2009) Premiere. Comedy sequel, starring Rebecca and Camilla Rosso. **3.10** Film: While You Were Sleeping. (1995) Romantic comedy, starring Sandra Bullock and Bill Pullman. **5.10** Film: Monster-in-Law. (2005) Romantic comedy, starring Jennifer Lopez and Jane Fonda.

**6.55** 5 News Weekend.

**7.00** Cricket on 5. England v Sri Lanka. Mark Nicholas presents action from the third day of the Second Test in the two-match series, which is staged at Headingley. With commentary by Nicholas, Michael Vaughan, Geoffrey Boycott and Simon Hughes.

**8.00** Bikini Body? The Truth About Diets. Part one of two. A selection of weight-loss methods, with scientists, industry experts and exponents explaining the pros and cons of fad diets and extreme exercise regimes.

**9.00** Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chat-chit. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.

**10.00** Film: What to Expect When You're Expecting. (2012) Premiere. Five women and their partners have their lives thrown into chaos by the prospect of parenthood. Comedy drama, starring Cameron Diaz.

**12.10** Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole. (R) **1.05** SuperCasino. **3.10** Gibraltar: Britain in the Sun. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00** Great Movie Mistakes **7.05** Film: Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (2008) **8.25** Film: Streetdance (2010) **10.00** Russell Howard's Good News **11.00** Family Guy **11.45** American Dad! **12.30** Russell Howard's Good News **1.00** Barely Legal Drivers **2.00** blood, Smack & Tears: Afghanistan's Heroin Hell **3.00** Badults

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Sounds of the Eighties **7.30** Glynedebourne: The Untold History **9.00** The Legend of Billie Jean King: Battle of the Sexes **10.20** Venus and Serena **11.20** Billy Joel: The Bridge to Russia – A Matter of Trust **12.35** Billy Joel: Live in Leningrad **1.55** The Legend of Billie Jean King: Battle of the Sexes

**ITV2**  
**11.40** America's Got Talent **1.35** Funnies! Ever You've Been Framed! **2.35** You've Been Framed! **3.35** Film: Flipper (1996) **5.30** Film: Scooby-Doo (2002) **7.15** Film: Johnny English (2003) **9.00** Educating Joey Essex: Football Fever **10.00** The Only Way Is Maths **11.00** TV OD **11.30** Film: License to Wed (2007) **1.20** Fake Reaction **2.00** You've Been Framed! Full Throttle **2.50** Teleshopping

**ITV3**  
**12.00** Sparkling Cyanide **2.05** Rosemary & Thyme **3.40** The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes **4.40** Inspector Morse **7.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Film: Interview with the Vampire (1994) **1.25** William and Mary **2.15** Murder, She Wrote **4.00** Movies Now **4.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **4.45** Emmerdale

**ITV4**  
**12.30** Film: The 'Burbs (1989) **2.30** Film: The Story of Dr Wassell (1944) **5.15** Film: The Battle of Midway (1976) **8.00** Dirty Britain **9.00** Benidorm **10.05** Film: National Lampoon's European Vacation (1985) **12.00** Film: Guest House Paradiso (1999) **1.45** Cristiano Ronaldo – Footballing Superstar **2.40** Movies Now **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen

**ITV5**  
**12.30** Youngers **1.00** Made in Chelsea **2.00** How I Met Your Mother **3.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** The Mindy Project **7.30** New Girl **8.00** Film: Turner & Hooch (1989) **10.05** Rude Tube: Viral Ads **11.10** How I Met Your Mother **12.05** Rules of Engagement **1.00** The Cleveland Show **2.50** Being Erica **3.30** Hollyoaks

**ITV6**  
**11.00** Baby's Day Out (1994) **1.00** The Hunt for Red October (1990) **3.40** Clear and Present Danger (1994) **6.20** The Karate Kid (2010) **9.00** Colombian (2011) **11.05** 48 Hrs (1982) **1.00** Blue Juice (1994) **3.05** Close

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## Film Choices

### MONDAY

#### Desolation Canyon, Channel 5, 3.20pm

A boy is taken hostage by a gang of bank robbers, prompting his grandfather to join forces with the local sheriff to track down those responsible and bring the child safely home – unaware that bounty hunters are also in pursuit of the outlaws. Western, starring Patrick Duffy, Stacy Keach and David Rees Snell. (2006)

### TUESDAY

#### Rambo III, ITV, 10.35pm

Vietnam veteran John Rambo turns down a request from his old colonel to join a mission in Soviet-occupied Afghanistan. However, when the officer is captured, Rambo sets off to save him, joining the Mujahedeen rebels in fighting against the Russian invaders. Action adventure sequel, starring Sylvester Stallone, Richard Crenna, Kurtwood Smith, Marc de Jonge and Sasson Gabai. (1988)

#### Hollywoodland, BBC1, 11.45pm

Fact-based mystery focusing on the life and sudden death of actor George Reeves, famed for his role as Superman in the 1950s TV series. The story is told in flashback through the eyes of a private investigator hired by Reeves' mother to unearth the truth surrounding his mysterious fate. Starring Ben Affleck, Adrien Brody, Diane Lane and Bob Hoskins. (2006)



Hollywoodland, Tuesday, BBC1, 11.45pm

### WEDNESDAY

#### Raw Deal, ITV, 11.05pm

An FBI agent is discharged for insubordination but later offered his old job back – on condition he agrees to infiltrate a gang of Chicago mobsters and bring their leader to book for killing the son of the Bureau's chief. Action thriller, with Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sam Wanamaker and Kathryn Harrold. (1986)

### THURSDAY

#### Ice Twisters, Channel 5, 3.15pm

An experiment using liquid nitrogen to induce rain in the drought-ravaged Pacific Northwest goes horribly wrong and creates tornados that scatter deadly shards of ice. Sci-fi thriller, starring Mark Moses, Camille Sullivan, Kaj-Erik Eriksen and Alex Zahara. (2009)

### FRIDAY

#### The Waterboy, Channel 4, 12.10am

An American football team's waterboy puts up with constant ridicule from the players. But one day his anger gets the better of him and he demonstrates an unexpected talent for tackling – so the coach gives him a chance to prove his worth on the pitch. Comedy, with Adam Sandler, Kathy Bates, Henry Winkler and Fairuza Balk. (1998)

## Pick of the Week

# Dawn is helping girls create their own style

In theory, fashion is all about the latest trends – but Dawn O'Porter is here to put the case for clothes that were made to last.

She's the host of new series This Old Thing: The Vintage Clothes Show, Channel 4, Wednesday, 8pm which aims to inspire more people to look to the past when finding their style.

As well as encouraging us to shop for vintage garments, she'll also be opening the doors to her sewing workshop, where a team of seamstresses and tailors will work their magic repairing or even completely re-inventing old items.

The presenter explains: "It's about trying to get people to step away from the mass-production of the high street and incorporate some of the old with the new, so that they'll not only be a bit more stylish and stand out, but it'll also do something to combat this throwaway culture where people buy clothes and then chuck them away the next season.

"I want people to fall back in love with clothes like they did in the old

days, and value what they buy a little more, and look after clothes better."

Put like that, it sounds simple, especially when you consider how many new styles in the chain stores were actually inspired by fashions from previous decades.

However, Dawn understands why some people are resistant to 'pre-loved' clothing.

"Well, first of all, they think that someone died in them. To which I would say 'Who cares? As long as they're not still dead in them, it doesn't matter."

Also they think it's unhygienic, but if you go into a vintage shop and something is really stained, or it smells, don't buy it.

It doesn't mean that it's all like that," She adds: "Another thing that put people off was all the rummaging.

What's great about the high street is that you can go out in your lunch hour and buy a red dress in your size and everything's very easy.

"But if you put the time in to buy

the right stuff, your wardrobe is going to be full of stuff that you love, and getting dressed is going to be less stressful each day."

The first person Dawn tries to convert is Bristol girl Chevonne, who refuses to shop anywhere other than the high street, but admits she's tired of looking the same as every one else.

Can she be convinced that buying vintage will help her find her own unique look?

Well, at least Dawn can use herself as an example of the transforming power of vintage. She says: "I couldn't keep up with trends, I couldn't really be fashionable.

But I really loved clothes. And then I discovered a vintage shop, and realised that I could dress for myself rather than for an industry or trend. "It did a lot for my confidence, for the way that I felt about clothes and the way that I looked. It's the feeling of 'I'm wearing what I love,' rather than 'I'm wearing what you love,' that I think is so great about vintage."



Dawn O'Porter presents this new series, Wednesday, Channel 4, 8pm

## Best of the Rest

### MONDAY

#### Today at Wimbledon BBC2, 8pm

John Inverdale introduces highlights of the opening day's play at the All England Club, where the first round got under way in the men's and ladies' singles. Much of the attention will have been on the opening match on Centre Court, which saw Andy Murray begin the defence of his title, after producing such memorable moments in last year's tournament.

#### Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole Channel 5, 9pm

This episode of the programme focuses on large families who depend on the benefits system, including 64-year-old father of 22 Peter Rolf, whose children – by 10 different women – range in ages from three to 43, of which he is the sole carer for six. He has been fighting his council in the Isle of Wight for a much bigger house and is also at loggerheads with the benefits office for capping his weekly payment.

#### TUESDAY FIFA World Cup Live 2014 ITV, 4pm

Costa Rica v England (Kick-off 5.00pm). All the action from both teams' third and final Group D encounter, as Roy Hodgson's men look to end their group campaign on a high at the Estadio Mineirao in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. Presented by Adrian Chiles, with commentary by Clive Tyldesley and Andy Townsend, and analysis by Lee Dixon, Glenn Hoddle and Ian Wright.

#### Love Your Garden ITV, 8pm

New series. The green-fingered team returns with more surprise garden makeovers for deserving people across the nation. Darren and Lesley Chan's youngest daughter Amelie was born with Charge syndrome – a debilitating genetic condition that has left her deaf, partially sighted and in need of constant care. Alan Titchmarsh sets out to transform the Manchester family's neglected outdoor space.

#### Shoppgirls: The True Story of Life Behind the Counter BBC2, 9pm

New series. Social historian Pamela Cox charts the journey of female shopworkers over the past 150 years, from almost invisible figures in stark Victorian stores, to being at the heart of the UK's retail revolution. She begins with the mid-19th century, when shops up and down the land were owned and staffed by men.

#### WEDNESDAY Brand New House for 5K Channel 5, 8pm

New series. Designer Linda Barker is given one week and £5,000 of her clients' money to transform a property, with every single item needed for the makeover having to come out of the budget. In the first episode, Mervyn and Sam's two-bedroom terraced house in Hertfordshire needs a lot of attention.

#### The Hotel Inspector Returns Channel 5, 9pm

When it comes to cosy little B&Bs and impressive hotels, Alex Polizzi knows what the punters want and has more than earned her right to dictate to hoteliers how to better run their businesses. But after she has left the building, do her protégés keep up the good work? This new series is about to find out, as the Hotel Inspector revisits some of the more challenging establishments she's come across. Tonight, Alex heads back to the eight-acre Meudon Country House Hotel near Falmouth and checks in with the Pilgrim family. Two years ago, father and son Harry and Mark were struggling to balance the books, and the business – and their relationship – was on the brink of collapse. Are they doing any better now?

#### THURSDAY Beauty Queen or Bust Channel 4, 9pm

New series. Each year, regional heats for the Miss World competition take place in towns and cities across England, and this documentary follows some of the young entrants hoping to make it through beauty pageants in Blackpool, Hull and Wolverhampton. In the first edition, three

girls compete to take the crown at the Miss Black Country heat. Diamond was kicked out of school and fears she may never find work, while Sammy Jo has been unemployed for two years and lives in a hostel with other jobless teenagers. Natalie is saving up for the perfect pageant dress using the profits from her mobile hair-extension business.

### FRIDAY

#### The Hunt for Hitler's Missing Millions Channel 5, 8pm

Berlin-born Jew Herman Rothman fled Germany as a 14-year-old just before the Second World War started and ended up working for the British Intelligence Corps. In 1945, he and his team translated documents seized from a suspected Nazi on the run and found them to be Adolf Hitler's personal and political wills, written hours before his suicide. This documentary examines this story and the subsequent quest to uncover the extent of the dictator's wealth and locate the money.

#### Glastonbury 2014 BBC2, 11.05pm

Jo Whaley, Mark Radcliffe and Lauren Laverne introduce further coverage of the music festival, including Canadian indie band Arcade Fire's headline set on the Pyramid stage. The trio then continue into the small hours with highlights from across the first full day at Worthy Farm, where acts scheduled to play included Skrillex, MIA, Metronomy, Four Tet, Kaiser Chiefs and the Selecter. There are also acoustic performances and insights into the dark, weird and bizarre late-night world of the festival.



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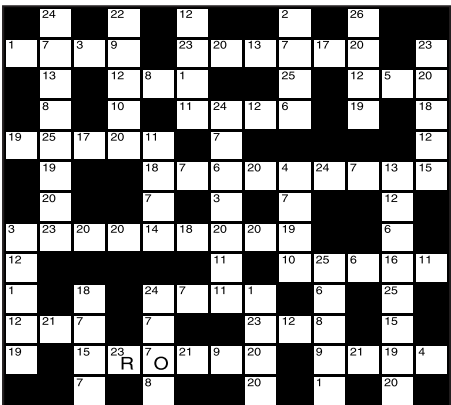


# Brain Gym

No.278

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	O
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

K	D	E	I	J	M	Q	R	O	H	L	A	C
X	W	F	Z	V	S	T	U	B	Y	G	P	N

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

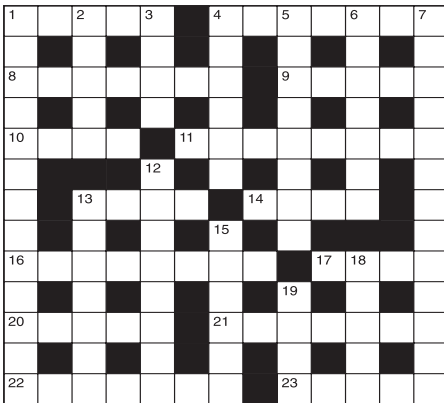
### Cryptic Clues:

#### Across

- See 17 Across
- See 10 Across
- Having no potential to describe the celebrity (7)
- Dickensian character to do some swindling (5)
- 10 & 4Ac. These menaces are certainly not fair! (4,7)
- Personal disposition of estate shows obstinacy (4-4)
- Relinquish a small spot (4)
- Refuse to admit in the garden yonder (4)
- Swindle the gambler to make more progress! (2,6)
- 17 & 1Ac. Become insured and keep away from danger (4,5)
- Route diverted at a distance from the bull! (5)
- Top men confused about one West Indian spice (7)
- 22 & 6Dn. To have regard for skill shows seaminess (14)
- Does this attract a light sentence? (5)

#### Down

- What a travelling orchestra goes on? (9,4)
- Invigorating talk unfinished by six (5)
- Stone type required for a girl (4)
- Various sheets needed for dissertations (6)
- Approved, if I get involved in different trade (8)
- See 22 Across
- Not an urban community on the moon! (9,4)
- Job vacant - no stamp required (4-4)
- Discussions to be raised in specific times (7)
- He's absolutely in control of French location (6)
14. Depend (4)
- Members of the family for whom jibes have no initial impact (5)
- Nineteenth-century novel put back in the programmes (4)



### Quick Clues:

#### Across

- Bestow (5)
- Tetanus (7)
- ASTOUNDING (7)
- Volley (5)
- Obligation (4)
- Rude (8)
- Hypocrisy (4)
- Depend (4)
- Amount (8)
- Conceal (4)
- Supplementary (5)
- Copy (7)
- Flood (7)
- Clothe (5)

#### Down

- Bombastic (13)
- Tarry (5)
- Neat (4)
- Pod (6)
- Client (8)
- Merry-making (7)
- Salubrity (13)
- Introduce (8)
- Prattle (7)
- Rigorous (6)
- Effigy (5)
- Sort (4)

## Sudoku

1	7					8		5
		6	7		8		4	
8			2					
	4		8					9
		5	3		9	6		
6				7	5		8	
		8			2			4
	5		9		3			8
		2		8			9	6

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

9	1	7	6	4	8	5	2	3
4	6	2	9	3	5	7	8	1
3	8	5	1	7	2	6	4	9
8	9	1	7	6	4	2	3	5
7	4	3	2	5	1	8	9	6
2	5	6	3	8	9	1	4	7
6	2	8	5	1	3	4	7	9
5	7	4	8	9	6	3	1	2
1	3	9	4	2	7	6	5	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
CRYPTIC - Across: 3 Hour-glass; 8 Reel; 9 Number one; 10 Adonis; 11 Alias; 14 Beach; 15 Turn; 16 Evens; 18 Aida; 20 Ample; 21 Afoot; 24 Rascal; 25 Attention; 26 Noah; 27 On the side. Down: 1 Great bear; 2 Memoranda; 4 Opus; 5 Rebel; 6 Lariat; 7 Sane; 9 Niche; 11 Adept; 12 Suspicion; 13 Unhealthy; 17 Satan; 19 Afresh; 22 Oaths; 23 Stun; 24 Flood. QUICK - Across: 3 Searching; 8 Edge; 9 Dramatist; 10 Option; 11 Steer; 14 Ratio; 15 Dawn; 16 Reach; 18 Moor; 20 Abate; 21 Needy; 24 Remiss; 25 Dejection; 26 Turn; 27 Preserved. Down: 1 Aerodrome; 2 Agitation; 4 Earn; 5 Remit; 6 Hatred; 7 Nosy; 9 Donor; 11 Shady; 12 Rapacious; 13 Incessant; 17 Haven; 19 Recess; 22 Deter; 23 Tear; 24 Rove.

## Do you organise events?

Get your event listed on all the important sites and publications including The Guardian Guide, Time Out, The List and local press.

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Visit [www.listora.me/2014](http://www.listora.me/2014) to list your next event.



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Departures most weekends

**Saturday Night Theatre from £149.<sup>95</sup>**  
Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance.

Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

**Theatre Showstopper from £209.<sup>95</sup>**  
This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening.

Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade. Two nights stay at a four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply) and a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

#### Coach inclusive breaks – Two days

Selected weekend departures

**Saturday Night from £139.<sup>95</sup>**  
**Dine and Dance from £149.<sup>95</sup>**  
Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing.

For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and a disco (conditions apply). Or the Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the show to see an evening performance.

Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options).

Pick ups points offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

\*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply. for all breaks

Organised by Omega Events Ltd (ABTA Y590X)



For a theatre brochure please call the promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go [expressandstar.com/starextratravel](http://expressandstar.com/starextratravel)

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions



# A great spot for spacious semi-detached near town



**A DECEPTIVELY spacious semi-detached property in Birmingham Road, Walsall has well planned accommodation within a short commuting distance of Walsall town centre.**

It is for sale through Edwards Moore at £299,950. With double glazing and gas central heating it has a porch, reception hall, lounge, sitting room, kitchen, four first floor bedrooms, a large bathroom, loft room, en-suite, garage, fore garden with off road parking and a large enclosed rear garden.

Schools are close by including Park Hall Infant and Junior School, secondary education is available at Queen Mary's Grammar School for both boys and girls and private education is available at Hydesville Tower School located on Broadway North. Walsall Rugby, Cricket and Golf clubs are also close by. For details contact Edwards Moore on 01922 621411 or visit [www.edwardsmoore.co.uk](http://www.edwardsmoore.co.uk)



## Stylish family home is in Lower Gornal

**WITH part exchange considered, this stylish five bedroomed detached residence, 10C Coopers Bank Road, Lower Gornal, is a spacious modern property.**

Decorated throughout in neutral shades, it is for sale through Taylors Estate Agents at £299,999.

In a select development of elegant quality homes, accommodation comprises a reception hall, fitted cloakroom, a study, 27ft through living/dining room (with a walk in bay and double French doors to garden), 18ft breakfast kitchen.

Contact Taylors on 01902 880888 or [www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk](http://www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk)



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### VICTORIA AVENUE, HALESOWEN



**MODERNISED & EXTENDED** family link DETACHED home in sought after tree lined road. 35ft kitchen/dining & family room. Separate 18ft lounge & 16ft study. Utility room & d/s WC. 3 DOUBLE bedrooms & planning permission for 2 FURTHER bedrooms. REFITTED family bathroom. GARAGE & driveway. LARGE & private rear garden. UPVC DG & GCH. EPC rating: D Ref: D1447

£349,950 Ref: D1447

### LONG LANE, HALESOWEN



EXTENDED detached family home with LARGE PRIVATE rear garden. 18ft extended lounge & separate dining room. Extended 15ft breakfast kitchen, 19ft utility & downstairs shower room & WC. REFITTED family bathroom, 4 bedrooms & box room on 1st floor. GARAGE & BLOCKPAVED driveway. UPVC DG & gas central heating. EPC rating: D Ref: D1464

£299,950 Ref: D1464

### HARBORNE ROAD, OLDBURY



LARGE modern town house in SOUGHT AFTER residential area with GARAGE & driveway. NO UPWARD CHAIN. 25ft kitchen diner, lounge & d/s WC. 24ft MASTER BEDROOM with EN-SUITE on 2nd floor. 3 further bedrooms & family bathroom on 1st floor. Gardens to rear. UPVC double glazing, gas central heating & security system fitted. EPC rating: C Ref: D1469

£249,950 Ref: D1469

### RIDGACRE ROAD WEST, QUINTON



LARGE double fronted home with DRIVEWAY to front. 21ft family kitchen to rear & 2 separate reception rooms. D/S shower room & WC. 3 DOUBLE bedrooms & family bathroom on 1st floor. Lawn rear garden with SUMMERHOUSE. UPVC double glazing & gas central heating. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating: D Ref: D1466

£219,950 Ref: D1466

### CULMORE ROAD, HALESOWEN



IMMACULATE & EXTENDED double fronted home in tree lined road. 16ft lounge & 10ft dining area leading to REFITTED kitchen. Separate utility room, d/s WC & STUDY/playroom. REFITTED bathroom & 3 bedrooms. Garage & gated driveway to the front. Lawn rear garden. UPVC DG & gas central heating. EPC rating: E Ref: D1416

£209,950 Ref: D1416

### DEVON ROAD, BEARWOOD



Edwardian home with LOTS OF POTENTIAL. Having GARAGE & driveway. EXTENSIVE lawn rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. Benefits from 3 reception rooms, kitchen & side verandah & WC. 4 bedrooms & bathroom on 1st floor. Gas central heating & majority UPVC double glazing. BEST & FINAL OFFERS TO BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY 27TH JUNE @12PM COMPLETE WITH PROOF OF FUNDING. EPC rating: E Ref: D1385

£209,950 Ref: D1385

### BARSTON ROAD, OLDBURY



EXTENDED semi detached home with block paved DRIVEWAY. 27ft lounge diner, kitchen & side verandah/utility area. 3 bedrooms & refitted family bathroom. Enclosed rear garden with vehicular access. UPVC double glazing & gas central heating. Situated in popular residential area. EPC rating: D Ref: D1470

£149,950 Ref: D1470

### WORLDS END LANE, QUINTON



Semi-detached home with POTENTIAL TO EXTEND TO SIDE. 28ft lounge diner, 10ft kitchen & GARAGE to side. 3 bedrooms & family bathroom on 1st floor. DRIVEWAY to front & lawn rear garden with WESTERLY aspect. Gas central heating & majority UPVC double glazing. EPC rating: D Ref: D1465

£139,950 Ref: D1465

### FALCON ROAD, OLDBURY



SPACIOUS semi-detached home with BLOCKPAVED frontage. 2 separate reception rooms & kitchen on ground floor. Utility area in outbuilding. 2 DOUBLE bedrooms & shower room on 1st floor. EXTENSIVE garden to rear with paving & lawn with SOUTHERLY aspect. UPVC DG & gas central heating fitted. EPC rating: D Ref: D1467

£114,950 Ref: D1467

### WORCESTER ROAD, OLDBURY



SPACIOUS home with NO UPWARD CHAIN - vacant possession. DRIVEWAY to front. 2 SEPARATE reception rooms, kitchen & DOWNSTAIRS WC. Having 3 bedrooms, bathroom & WC on 1st floor. Rear garden with SOUTHERLY aspect. Benefits from UPVC double glazing & gas central heating. EPC rating: D Ref: D1473

£109,950 Ref: D1473

### CHANCE CROFT, OLDBURY



MODERN mews home in CUL-DE-SAC location. 2 SPACIOUS bedrooms & family bathroom. 15ft dining kitchen and 15ft lounge. DRIVEWAY giving off road to front. SOUTHERLY lawned rear garden & feature patio. UPVC DG & GCH. Close to supermarket, doctors and schools. EPC rating: C Ref: D1184

£104,950 Ref: D1184

### SUNCROFT, QUINTON



MODERNISED semi-detached home with REFITTED kitchen & 20ft lounge diner. Side passage & utility area. 2 DOUBLE bedrooms & REFITTED shower room. Lawn gardens to front & rear (having southerly aspect). UPVC DG & gas central heating fitted. EPC rating: F Ref: D1463

£104,950 Ref: D1463

### DAVENTRY GROVE, QUINTON



Located in TREE LINED CUL-DE-SAC on the top floor. 21ft lounge diner & REFITTED kitchen. 2 DOUBLE bedrooms & REFITTED bathroom & REFITTED WC. UPVC glazing & gas central heating fitted. OVER 100 years on lease with ground rent ONLY £10 per annum. EPC rating: D Ref: D1460

£102,500 Ref: D1460

### TRIMPLEY ROAD, BARTLEY GREEN



SPACIOUS terraced home with DRIVEWAY to front for several vehicles. NO UPWARD CHAIN. 21ft lounge diner, 15ft kitchen & separate utility room. 3 GOOD SIZE bedrooms. REFITTED shower room & WC. SOUTHERLY facing rear garden. UPVC DG & gas central heating. EPC rating: Ref: D1471

£99,995 Ref: D1471

### HOLLY BUSH GROVE, QUINTON



SPACIOUS 1st floor maisonette with 3 BEDROOMS. Kitchen with appliances, 14ft lounge with BALCONY. REFITTED shower room & sep.WC. Gas central heating & double glazing fitted. IDEAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY EPC rating: C Ref: D1472

£79,950 Ref: D1472

### KITWELL LANE, BARTLEY GREEN



NO UPWARD CHAIN - VACANT POSSESSION. 4th floor flat with SPACIOUS rooms. 18ft lounge diner & separate kitchen. 14ft DOUBLE bedroom with separate bathroom. Gas central heating fitted (not tested). Lift access. EPC rating: C Ref: D1458

£39,950 Ref: D1458





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**QUINTON****BENT AVENUE**

- Stunning Five Bedroom Residence
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**OLDBURY****SISKIN CLOSE**

- Modern Detached Property EPC Rating C
- Lounge, Dining Room Fitted Kitchen, Utility, Cloaks W/c
- Four Bedrooms Master With En-suite Shower Room plus Family Bathroom
- Property Benefits From Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Integral Garage Driveway Garden To The Rear

**£224,950**      QUINTON 0121 4217766
**OLDBURY****CASTLE ROAD WEST**

- Extended Semi Detached Property Awaiting EPC Rating E
- Lounge Dining Room Fitted Kitchen Downstairs Shower Room
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Drive To Front Garden To The Rear
- Viewing Recommended No Upward Chain

**£180,000**      QUINTON 0121 4217766
**QUINTON****QUINTON LANE**

- Traditional Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D
- Lounge Dining Room Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom Separate W/c
- Block Paved Drive Large Rear Garden Double Garage To The Rear
- Internal Viewing Recommended

**£180,000**      QUINTON 0121 4217766
**QUINTON****UPPER MEADOW ROAD**

- Immaculate Bay Fronted Semi Detached Property EPC Rating E
- Lounge Kitchen-Dining Room
- Three Bedrooms Shower Room
- Benefiting From A Gas Central Heating System and Double Glazing
- Block Paved Driveway Large Rear Garden Garage To The Rear

**£152,500**      QUINTON 0121 4217766
**OLDBURY****FARM ROAD**

- Immaculate Traditional Semi Detached
- Through Lounge/Dining Room
- New Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms And Bathroom
- Spacious Rear Garden

**£150,000**      QUINTON 0121 4217766
**WOODGATE****WOOD LANE**

- End Of Terrace Property EPC Rating E
- Lounge Dining Area Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Gas Central Heating System Double Glazing
- Driveway To The Front Large Garden To The Rear

**£125,000**      QUINTON 0121 4217766
**OLDBURY****LINKS ROAD**

- Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D
- Lounge Dining Room Kitchen D/stairs Shower Room
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Garage Drive Front and Rear Gardens
- Large Plot To Side Of Property No Upward Chain

**£125,000**      QUINTON 0121 4217766
**ROWLEY REGIS****YORK ROAD**

- Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D
- Lounge Kitchen-Dining Room Utility Room Cloaks W/c
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Benefiting From A Gas Central Heating System and Double Glazing
- Garage Driveway Garden To The Rear

**£125,000**      QUINTON 0121 4217766
**QUINTON****SIMMONS DRIVE**

- Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating C
- Lounge Dining Room Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Driveway To The Front Garden To The Rear
- Well Presented Property Internal Viewing Recommended

**£120,000**      QUINTON 0121 4217766
**WOODGATE VALLEY****UPPER CLOSE**

- Mid Terrace Property Awaiting EPC Rating
- Lounge Kitchen/Diner Cloakroom W/c
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Off Road Parking To Front garden To The Rear
- Internal Viewing Recommended

**£115,000**      QUINTON 0121 4217766
**OLDBURY****SUNNYBANK ROAD**

- First Floor Maisonette EPC Rating F
- Lounge Kitchen Two Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Double Glazing Night Storage Heating
- Well Maintained Communal Gardens
- Cul-de-sac Location Internal Inspection Recommended

**£95,000**      QUINTON 0121 4217766
**BARTLEY GREEN****ATHOL CLOSE**

- Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating D
- Lounge Good Sized Kitchen-Diner
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Gardens To The Front and Rear
- Viewing Recommended No Upward Chain

**Offers Over £95,000**      QUINTON 0121 4217766
**WOODGATE****WOODGATE GARDENS**

- Mid Terraced Property EPC Rating D
- Lounge Kitchen-Diner Cloakroom W/c
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Recently Re-furnished No Upward Chain

**£94,950**      QUINTON 0121 4217766
**PUBLIC NOTICE****NORTHFIELD ROAD**

53 Northfield Road, Harborne, B17 0ST. We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £125,000. Any interested party must submit any higher offer in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place. EPC rating D. Your Move, 156 High Street, Harborne, B17 9PN. 0121 426 2740.

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**QUINTON****WHITE ROAD**

- Traditional Semi Detached Property EPC Rating E
- Lounge Dining Room Conservatory Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Drive To The Front garden To The Rear
- Furnished Property - Immediate Availability

**£695m**      QUINTON 0121 4217766
**HALESOWEN****LEAFIELD GARDENS**

- Semi Detached Property EPC Rating E
- Through Lounge/Dining Room Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Garage Drive Front and Rear Gardens
- Immediate Availability

**£595 PCM**      QUINTON 0121 4217766
**BARTLEY GREEN****CLAPGATE LANE**

- Immaculate Three Bedroom Property
- Stunning Fitted Kitchen And Bathroom
- Large Lounge To Rear
- Three Bedrooms And Bathroom
- Garage En Bloc

**£650 PCM**      QUINTON 0121 4217766
**HALESOWEN****GEORGE ROAD**

- Spacious End Terrace Property EPC Rating
- Reception Room Fitted Kitchen Downstairs W/c
- Two Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Off Road Parking To The Front Garden To The Rear
- Immediate Availability

**£575**      QUINTON 0121 4217766

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# Immaculate home is in sought after area



AN immaculately presented and refurbished two bedroom bungalow in Charlemont Crescent, West Bromwich, lies in a cul de sac in a sought after area.

On sale through Connells at £210,000, it includes an entrance porch, a dining hall, a spacious lounge, two good sized bedrooms (both with fitted wardrobes), a rear garden having a slabbed patio area surrounding the property and a path leading to borders of the lawn, flower beds shrubs and trees and two garages.

Contact Connells on 0121 5251177 or visit [www.connells.co.uk](http://www.connells.co.uk)



## Hicks Hadley

[hickshadley.com](http://hickshadley.com)  
0121 585 6667

### Halesowen Office Lettings & Property Management



**HALESOWEN, Newton Court£650 pcm - Fees**  
A recently converted 3 bedroom 2nd floor apartment finished to an extremely high standard and centrally located with commuter links to Halesowen and Birmingham. Featuring 2 double bedrooms, both with fitted wardrobes, 2 bathrooms, 1 single bedroom, secondary glazing throughout. Allocated parking. Viewings recommended. EPC: C



**ROWLEY REGIS, Alwin Road£650 pcm - Fees**  
This detached house is in a cul-de-sac location. Located close to local shops and transport links. Featuring gas central heating, living room, dining area, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower, rear garden, driveway parking, unfurnished. EPC: TBC



**HALESOWEN, Linton Close£625 pcm - Fees**  
Newly refurbished 3 bedroom semi detached house in a quiet cul de sac position close to shops & major bus route having lounge, fitted kitchen, downstairs w.c., 3 good size bedrooms and bathroom with shower, gas central heating, garage and rear garden. A lovely family home. Available early July. EPC: D



**CRADLEY HEATH, Meadow Walk£595 pcm - Fees**  
Quiet location and modern living. A fully redecorated semi detached house within a popular residential area featuring gas central heating, spacious living room, modern fitted kitchen, house bathroom, 3 bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite, shower room, rear gardens, driveway parking. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, Wroxley House£595 pcm - Fees**  
1ST MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE! Luxury living in Hayley Green. This superb luxury ground floor apartment offering spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and diner with balcony. 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, a further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC: B



**BEARWOOD, St Marys Road£615 pcm - Fees**  
A 2 bedroom furnished to suit mid terraced house located in this very popular area of Bearwood. The property offers spacious accommodation with 2 reception rooms, kitchen with appliances, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms. Private rear garden. On road parking. EPC: E



**ROWLEY REGIS, Aqua Court£550 pcm - Fees**  
Beautifully presented and not to be missed. This new build ground floor apartment, a stones throw away from Blackheath Town Centre and featuring 2 double bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite, open plan lounge/kitchen, house bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, allocated parking space, viewing highly recommended. EPC: B



**HALESOWEN, Beecher Road£550 pcm - Fees**  
A very well presented semi-detached house, in a sought after area for Colley Lane Primary School and bus links. Featuring a large living room, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, front and rear gardens, driveway parking. EPC: TBC



**HALESOWEN, Malt Mill Lane£530 pcm - Fees**  
A superb fully re-furnished traditional terraced house. Within easy reach of Blackheath and a short drive from Halesowen and the M5. This home features 2 large reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazing. A must see property! EPC: C



**WORDSLEY, Cooknell Drive£525 pcm - Fees**  
Located in the centre of Wordsley and ideal for local buses to Stourbridge and Merry Hill. Featuring gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted dining kitchen, 2 bedrooms, en-suite shower room to master bedroom, house bathroom, rear garden, driveway parking. EPC: C



**HALESOWEN, Grange Crescent£525 pcm - Fees**  
We are pleased to offer this extremely well presented 2 bedroom 1st floor flat conveniently located close to Halesowen Town Centre and local amenities. The property comprises of lounge, fitted kitchen with appliances, 2 double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, bathroom suite with shower, gas central heating, large driveway, rear private garden & garage. EPC: D



**NETHERTON, Purlin Wharf£525 pcm - Fees**  
A very presentable, unfurnished ground floor apartment on this popular development, ideally located for canal walks. This property features 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, spacious lounge, modern fitted kitchen, family bathroom with white suite, double glazing, electric heating, 1 allocated parking space. Viewing highly recommended. EPC: C



**DUDLEY, Gammage Street£495 pcm - Fees**  
Ideal for Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley Town Centre and transport links. This end terrace 2 bedroom property is in the process of being painted and updated with a brand new combi boiler and integrated oven. This home features entrance hall, dining room, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, 2 double bedrooms, upstairs bathroom. Rear garden with patio area, on road parking. EPC: F



**CRADLEY HEATH, Luanne Close£485 pcm - Fees**  
This lovely part furnished 2nd floor apartment, with views over the canal and on a popular development, comprises of 2 bedrooms, 1 with wardrobes, lounge with brown leather 'L' shape sofa and arm chair, fitted kitchen with small fridge, gas central heating, bathroom with shower, allocated parking, and communal garden. EPC: B



**HALESOWEN, Stour Court£475 pcm - Fees**  
Located in a quiet, desirable neighbourhood is this well kept 1st floor apartment situated in a peaceful cul de sac, offering a spacious living room, modern fitted kitchen with built in cooker and hob, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with fitted shower, allocated parking space. EPC: C



**STOURBRIDGE, Clifton Street£450 pcm - Fees**  
A stunning apartment set in the Old Quarter of Stourbridge. Ideal for the town centre and transport links. The apartment is on the ground floor and features a great size lounge, new kitchen, new bathroom, 1 double bedroom, off road parking. EPC: TBC



**ROWLEY REGIS, Dudley Road£450 pcm - Fees**  
Not to be missed is this 1 bedroom ground floor flat which has just undergone a full refurbishment. Standing in its own grounds within a detached house with parking for 2 cars this unique property comprises of lounge with electric fire, fitted kitchen, white bathroom suite with shower & 1 double bedroom, outside rear garden. EPC: C



**CRADLEY HEATH, Elbow Street£450 pcm - Fees**  
1ST MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE! An unfurnished 3rd floor apartment on a popular development, close to Old Hill High Street and the local train station. The property features; living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower. Benefits include electric storage heating, allocated parking space. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, Hamilton Avenue£425 pcm - Fees**  
An unfurnished ground floor flat in a well sought after location of Halesowen. Ideal for motorway access and walking into town. Featuring a spacious living room, fitted kitchen, double bedroom, bathroom with shower. Benefits include communal garden, allocated parking space. EPC: C



**CRADLEY HEATH, Halesowen Road£400 pcm - Fees**  
This value for money unfurnished terraced house, close to Old Hill Town Centre and Old Hill Train Station. Featuring 2 bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, gas central heating, 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen with appliances, downstairs bathroom with shower, on road parking. NO REAR GARDEN. EPC: D



**CRADLEY HEATH, Trinity Street£375 pcm - Fees**  
House share in a large Victorian semi-detached home. Large furnished double bedroom available in this lovely period house. Kitchen, bathroom and large lounge are all shared facilities. Wi-Fi broadband. Rent to include all bills. 2 people sharing will be £100 pcm extra. EPC: E

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# Missing a trick with new S80

By Graham Breeze

**When Volvo gave the S80 an update it really didn't go far enough.**

When you buy a Volvo you expect to get a purposeful appearance, a strong engine, space and reliability – the S80 could have offered lot more.

You get all that with the S80 but you do have to look very closely to find the changes from the previous model, which is a shame.

You can't help thinking Volvo missed an opportunity to really give this model the new look it deserves. But that doesn't mean the S80 doesn't tick all the right boxes because it does.

It's big and classy and if you're look-

ing for an 'unobtrusive' option you've just struck gold.

There are new front and rear bumpers, a wider front grille and very likeable LED daytime running lights, and a touch more chrome about the front end.

There's a three model range with SE Nav, SE Lux and S80 Executive – and all three are well specced.

## Leather-faced

The Nav gives you leather-faced upholstery, eight-speaker multi-media audio system, DAB radio, rain sensors, automatic dimming and Bluetooth. You also get 17in alloys and rear parking assist.

The SE Lux adds an electrically-powered driver's seat, active TFT crystal driver's information display along with impressive bending headlights.

To get all the benefits you will need to



**'The eight-speed Geartronic system helps the two-litre diesel engine produce a top speed of 140mph'**

upgrade to the Executive with 18in alloys, walnut wood console, heated rear seats and front park assist.

The D4 Geartronic Executive on test also benefited from a fully-integrated sat-nav system with voice-activated control through a seven-inch colour display.

It may not have the looks to turn heads but this model does have the performance. The eight-speed Geartronic system helps the two-litre diesel engine produce a top speed of 140mph and 0-62mph in 7.9secs.

CO2 emissions are low at just 117g/


km and on the combined cycle you can achieve 62mpg.

The S80 provides a smooth ride and is quick enough when asked and you get a choice of performance modes.



It's comfortably a five-seater, with good vision and boot space which easily accommodated the golf clubs.

Prices start at just over £30,000 but the test model checked in at just under £38,000 which isn't cheap.

I still can't help feeling Volvo missed a trick with the S80.




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Models shown: Alto 1.0 SZ4 available at £7,999 on the road, includes customer saving of £1,600 (metallic paint available at £399). Splash 1.2 SZ4 available at £9,999 on the road, includes customer saving of £1,980 (metallic paint available at £415). Swift 1.2 SZ4 5dr available at £11,415 on the road, includes customer saving of £2,284 (metallic paint available at £430). Alto, Splash and Swift range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): Urban from 40.9 (6.9) to 55.4 (5.1), extra urban from 56.5 (5.0) to 78.5 (3.6), combined from 49.6 (5.7) to 67.3 (4.2). Official CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from 131 g/km to 109 g/km.

The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. \*VAT free offer on Alto, Splash and Swift range: Alto 1.0 SZ available from £5,999, including customer saving of £1,200 to Alto 1.0 SZ4 A/T available at £8,625 including customer saving of £1,724 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £7,199 (SZ) and £10,349 (SZ4 A/T). Splash 1.0 SZ2 available at £7,999, including customer saving of £1,600 to Splash 1.2 SZ4 A/T available at £10,645 including a customer saving of £2,129 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £9,599 (SZ2) and £12,774 (SZ4 A/T). Swift 1.2 SZ2 3dr available at £8,999, including a customer saving of £1,800 to Swift 1.2 SZ4 5dr 4x4 available at £13,116 including customer saving of £2,623 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £10,799 (SZ2 3dr) and £15,739 (SZ4 5dr 4x4). VAT Free offer excludes Swift Sport and Swift Sport SZ-R. VAT equivalent reduction is not available on vehicle options or accessories. For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Offer subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st April 2014 to 30th June 2014 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print.





# New sporty Megane is hit on track and the road

By Sharon Walters

The tradition of exclusive, performance-oriented Renaultsport models continues with the unveiling of a new limited edition Mégane Renaultsport - 275 Trophy.

Following its recent facelift, the top-of-the-range Mégane now benefits from a technical upgrade and a bespoke look.

The new 275 Trophy is the latest in a line of limited edition Megane Renaultsports, which began with the 265 Trophy in 2011 and continued with the Red Bull Racing RB8.

Widely acclaimed both for its on-road performance, as well as its sublime track handling, the Cup chassis with limited slip differential comes as standard with the Mégane Renaultsport 275 Trophy.

To allow customers to appreciate the car's dynamic qualities even further, Renaultsport's engineers have worked extensively on its powerplant to extract yet more power, leading to an additional 10 horsepower. The two-litre turbocharged petrol engine consequently boasts 275hp, and peak power is reached at 5,500rpm. At the same time, maximum torque (360Nm) is available across a broad rev-band, from 3,000 to 5,000rpm.

Despite this additional power, fuel consumption and emissions have been carefully contained to stand at just 37.7 mpg\* and 174g of CO2/km respectively.

Renaultsport and Akrapovič, the manufacturer of benchmark exhaust systems for motorcycles and performance cars, have marked their association with the standard fitment of a titanium exhaust system. In addition to benefiting from the lighter weight of titanium, Mégane Renaultsport 275 Trophy also features a specific, more raucous bark that is sure to appeal to those who appreciate sporty engine notes.

### Partnership

Mégane Renaultsport 275 Trophy kicks off a partnership with the world-renowned damper manufacturer, Öhlins. The limited edition car can be specified with optional adjustable Öhlins Road & Track dampers with steel springs. This evolution of technology employed in motorsport and on the Mégane N4 rally car, allows drivers to adjust their damper settings easily and unaided.

Also available as an option for Mégane Renaultsport 275 Trophy for those who enjoy track days are MICHELIN Pilot Sport Cup 2 tyres. This ultra-high performance solution was developed jointly by Michelin and Renaultsport specifically for this new limited edition front-wheel-drive car.

The new lively includes Trophy branding on the silver F1-style silver blade, while the personalised body sides feature Trophy decals. Silver has also been selected for the chequered flag graphic at the bottom of the doors. Meanwhile, numbered door sill guards are further evidence of its exclusivity.

Like the new signature engine note, the carbon exhaust tail pipe, too, is the work of Akrapovič. Optional 19-inch black Speedline Turini wheels derived from those used by competition versions of Mégane can also be ordered to complete the racy look. Inside, Mégane Renaultsport 275 Trophy comes with leather and Alcantara Recaro bucket seats with red stitching. The same hue of stitching has been carried over to the rear bench seat, while the headrests feature Renaultsport badging. Other interior highlights include visible red stitching for the Alcantara steering wheel trim and handbrake gaiter, as well as an alloy gear lever knob.

To be sold in 20 countries worldwide, the new halo model for the Megane range is set to make its UK debut at the Goodwood Festival of Speed 2014 in June.

UK pricing and specification details will be confirmed in June, with first deliveries arriving in the showrooms in October.



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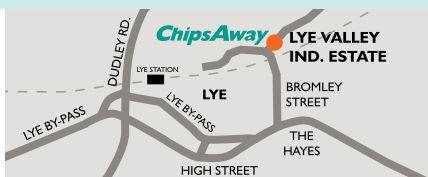


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## Auction attracts big interest

BCA's latest motorbike auction at BCA Peterborough attracted large numbers of buyers to bid on a massive selection of contemporary machines as well as a selection of vintage 1950's motorcycles.

Competitive bidding from over 100 buyers in the hall and a further 141 via BCA Live Online resulted in 120 bikes being sold on the day for a turnover of nearly £400,000.

The five vintage bikes, plus an assortment of engines and a frame came from a single collection and were presented in good condition.

The collection included two fully refurbished British-built Bown light motorcycle models from the early 1950s, two French Alcyon and Armor light motorcycles of similar vintage and a very rare British Mercury scooter in claret and white with gold trim. The five bikes, one frame and three engines all sold for a combined value of just under £6,000.

The day's star bike, a low-mileage 12-plate Ducati 1199 Panigale, achieved an impressive £12,900, while a 2011-registered BMW R1200 GS realised £9,400.

BCA's next bike sale at BCA Peterborough is on Friday, June 27, at 1pm. For full details and catalogue listings go to [bca.co.uk](http://bca.co.uk).

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**Swift Landscapes**  
Mini  
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## Gardening

**ROWAN TREE & GARDEN SERVICES**  
\*Tree Surgeon Specialist \*Stump Grinding/Root Removal  
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Winter Garden Maintenance undertaken  
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• A Good reliable service,  
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From total makeovers and  
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Guaranteed  
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✓ Cars & Lights  
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JUNE OFFERS ON SERVICING Call in  
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**Countrywide Driveways**  
Paving and Tarmac  
• Gravel Drives • Walls, decking and Fencing  
• Cleaning and Sealing • Real and Artificial Turf  
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**START OF SEASON SALE**  
8ft x 6ft **£340.00**  
10ft x 6ft **£445.00**  
10ft x 8ft **£495.00**  
12ft x 6ft **£595.00**  
Mention the  
Chronicle to get these  
prices  
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**N.E.DOWNING**  
(Blackheath) Ltd

Independent  
family run  
Funeral Directors

24 hour service

Halesowen

0121 422 2794

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## funeral services

**ST MARY'S**  
your hospice

Birmingham St Mary's Hospice  
welcomes collections to  
support our vital work.

All donations will help us to  
care for more local families  
living with terminal illness

For more information on how  
to support your hospice,  
please go to

www.birminghamhospice.org.uk

or call

**0121 472 1191**

Reg. charity number: 503456

## lost & found

### LOST MALE PUPPY

#### CHIHUAHUA

6 months old, microchipped,  
tan in colour, wearing black  
diamond collar, lost in the  
Netherton area, Sunday, June  
8, around 1pm.

Children devastated and want  
safe return.

**07531 757204.**

Reward for safe return.

LOST African Grey Parrot in the  
Bramdore area, Wed, June 11.  
Please call 07709 384888.

LOST - Black and White Tom Cat,  
called Achilles, from Wom-  
bourne area, chipped, blue  
collar. 01902 897066.

**1**

## Family

### elderly & disabled

**BARGAIN** Aluminium folding transit  
wheelchair, burgundy colour, brand  
new, never used, up to 17 stone.  
£110. 07792 780423.

**MOBILITY SCOOTERS** from £350  
can deliver, servicing available.  
Call: Powerlink, Blackheath 01384  
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**RISER RECLINER** Armchair and  
bed, very good condition, £200 for  
both. Call Tracy 07510 190628.

**SHOP RIDER** mobility scooter, ideal  
for in the home and for shopping.  
£295. 01902 405640.

**WREKIN STAIRLIFTS** recondi-  
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Lifts. 01952 405397/07897 273617

**2**

## Leisure Time

### caravans / motorhomes

**A BEAUTIFUL PARK** near Ludlow.  
Immaculate caravans from £10,000.  
Why go further? 01584 823493.

**ATLAS 35FT X 12FT** on small select  
park near Ludlow, open for 11  
months, as new condition, £6,000.  
Please call 01584 831586.

### AUTOCUISE STARGAZER

#### MOTORHOME

2006 model, 2/3 berth, 2007  
registered, tax and MOT, lovely  
upholstery, front turning seats,  
canopy, 3,000 miles, 1 lady  
owner, excellent condition  
£23,000. 07746 333615.

### AVONDALE RANGER 6400

**TOURER**  
2001, 25ft, double axle, good  
condition, on farm site,  
Burnham on Sea, 6-7 berth,  
genuine couple retiring, lots of  
extras, ready. £3,500. 01982  
Stourbridge 01384 821982.

**AVONDALE RIALTO** 2001, 480/2,  
with awning and extras, bottles little  
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### EXCELLENT CONDITION

**BAILEY ORION 430 / 4**  
Fixed bed, June 2011, 3 ring  
cooker, oven, microwave,  
fridge, radio.

Remote control movers, full and  
light weight awnings, ground  
sheet, winter cover, security  
devices, unused spare wheel.

No children / pets.  
Full service records.  
Used twice.

£9,300.

Muxton

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### BAILEY PAGEANT

#### PROVENCE

2004, 5 berth, ideal for families  
or couples wanting more space,  
double dinette, excellent con-  
dition, full awning, motor.  
Ready to go.

£6,250. 07954 173293.

**COMPASS LYNX** 2 berth, 900kg,  
Isabella awning, alko hitch, all  
accessories, excellent condition.  
£2,500. 01902 738257.

### COMPASS RALLY 482

2005, 2 berth, end bathroom,  
motor mover, 2 new awnings,  
many extras.

Immaculate condition.

£5,600 ono.

Telephone 07841 61340

or 01952 270834.

**ELDDIS GULF STREAM XL**, 1994,  
single axle, 2 berth caravan, good  
condition, ready to go. £1,650 ono.  
07747 471798.

**FIAT JOINT E47**  
5-berth camper van, 2005, MoT  
and tax, 23,000 miles, full  
Flamma awning, many extras,  
excellent condition.

£17,500. o.n.o.

**01902 761574/07790 474996.**

**FORD TRANSIT** Camper Van, high  
top, 2 berth, 2002, 57k, towbar,  
Flamma awning, immaculate,  
£6,995. 07751 552389.

**YAMAHA DRUM KIT**  
7 Shell Power V: 8, 10, 12, 13.  
16 toms, 22 bass, 14, snare,  
stands and pedals. Meinl  
classic cymbals, CS heads.

£395 ono.

**07841 098747.**

**YAMAHA DRUM KIT**  
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£395 ono.

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### what's on

#### antique fairs

**ODDFELLOWS**  
EVENTS  
presents  
**ANTIQUE & COLLECTABLES FAIR**  
Sunday 22nd June  
8.30am - 3.30pm  
at the  
Holiday Inn Hotel, Walsall  
M6 Junc 10, 5 mins from M54 &  
M5 W2 0BS  
Full Restaurant & Bar  
Free Parking  
Enquiries 07754 109570  
FREE Entry with this Ad  
or £1.50 old  
Wide range of stock incl.  
Military, China, Silver,  
Clocks and many more

**SWIFT CHALLENGER 570**  
2010, 4 berth, end bathroom,  
fixed bed, usual high spec plus  
135 watt fitted solar panel, sky  
dish, motor mover, excellent  
condition, illness forces sale.

£11,250.

**07711 830882.**

**SWIFT CHALLENGER 570**  
2010, 4 berth, end bathroom,  
fixed bed, usual high spec plus  
135 watt fitted solar panel, sky  
dish, motor mover, excellent  
condition, illness forces sale.

£11,250.

**07711 830882.**

### 3 Home & Services

#### collectables & memorabilia

**HORSE DRAWN CARAVAN** For  
sale, ready to go.  
£5,500 ono.  
07790 973752.

**BEIGE 3 SEATER SETTEE** and 2  
armchairs, (makes 4 recliners).  
Excellent condition. Cost £1,950.  
accept £600 ono. 01922 478053.

**BEIGE 3 SEATER SETTEE** and 2  
armchairs, (makes 4 recliners).  
Excellent condition. Cost £1,950.  
accept £600. o.n.o. 01922 478053.

**BROWN LEATHER** Three piece  
suite, brand new, cost over £1,000,  
sell for £390. 07799 426171

**3 Piece Suite**  
LUXURY CONSERVATORY  
CANE SUITE  
Unused 2014, 2 seater and 2  
armchairs, luxury chenille cushions,  
still wrapped, intended for  
show home, can deliver, cost  
£1,495.  
Accept £495.  
07788 649712.

**THREE, TWO** and one seater  
settees, cream, comfortable, very  
good condition, £125 ono. 01922  
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Top Soil,  
Building Sand  
Paving/Concrete Sand  
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Delivered Bagged or Loose  
**01902 893226**

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HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertise-  
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fully remind advertisers that it is  
their responsibility to inform the  
publishers of any mistakes or in-  
accuracies on the first day of publica-  
tion.

**INSET LIVE** effect gas fire, antique  
gold/black, immaculate, £100.  
07754 801749.

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READERS ARE ADVISED to care-  
fully consider all of their options  
before agreeing to the sale of any of  
their items.

**A BEST CASH PRICE PAID**  
ALL TOYS CARS/LORRIES  
WANTED. ALL  
Mamod/Wileco/Bowmans  
All conditions  
"Dinky" "Corgi" "Spot-on"  
"Britains and Airfix"  
"Mamod" / Wileco Steam  
Engines"  
"Scalextric Pre 1970's"  
Tri-ang, cars or  
complete sets."  
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Signs"  
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Immediate collection  
Call Bill on 07760 344 750

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BASS DRUMMER /  
Pipers required for Scottish  
pipe band, Wton area,  
experienced preferred, function  
Church Fete, etc. (Charities)  
Remembrance Parade.  
No competitions. 18+ only.  
01902 870018.

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7 Shell Power V: 8, 10, 12, 13.  
16 toms, 22 bass, 14, snare,  
stands and pedals. Meinl  
classic cymbals, CS heads.

£395 ono.

**07841 098747.**

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Enquiries 07754 109570  
FREE Entry with this Ad  
or £1.50 old  
Wide range of stock incl.  
Military, China, Silver,  
Clocks and many more

**SWIFT CHALLENGER 570**  
2010, 4 berth, end bathroom,  
fixed bed, usual high spec plus  
135 watt fitted solar panel, sky  
dish, motor mover, excellent  
condition, illness forces sale.

£11,250.

**07711 830882.**

**SWIFT CHALLENGER 570**  
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£11,250.

**07711 830882.**

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Excellent condition. Cost £1,950.  
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**3 Piece Suite**  
LUXURY CONSERVATORY  
CANE SUITE  
Unused 2014, 2 seater and 2  
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Paving/Concrete Sand  
Decorative Gravels  
Delivered Bagged or Loose  
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WANTED. ALL  
Mamod/Wileco/Bowmans  
All conditions  
"Dinky" "Corgi" "Spot-on"  
"Britains and Airfix"  
"Mamod" / Wileco Steam  
Engines"  
"Scalextric Pre 1970's"  
Tri-ang, cars or  
complete sets."  
"Old Enamel Advertising  
Signs"  
"Pre 1970 Annuals wanted,  
Beano, Dandy" etc  
**01902 745598 / 07984 159571**

**Free Ads**  
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY  
For items up to £250.  
Online at  
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**holidays**  
self catering  
holidays  
**BURNHAM-ON-SEA**  
Self Catering Holiday  
Apartments  
Disabled Facilities  
Pet Friendly  
**01278 794111**  
www.GoSomerset.co.uk

**caravans wanted**  
All Caravans Wanted



THREE LONG HAired Male Chihuahua puppies, full 5 generation pedigree, 9 weeks, wormed and flea treated, can deliver £350 each. 07412 627840.

## 5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

## 6 Property

properties wanted

## SELL YOUR HOUSE FAST

★ ANY AREA ★ ANY PRICE ★ ANY CONDITION ★  
CALL PAULA ON  
**01384 467643**  
INDEPENDENT ★ LOCAL ★ CONFIDENTIAL ★

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**LOWER GORNAL**, Single self contained Flatlet, fully furnished, own facilities. Suit applicants aged 35+, from £80pw inc. 01384 821363.

**NICE ONE BEDROOM FLAT BRIERLEY HILL**  
£80 per week.  
Totally refurbished.  
No DSS/pets.  
Call 07803 890908.

**ONE BED FLAT**, Cosely, very clean and tidy, GCH, £400pcm. 07812 109865.

**ONE BEDROOMED** First floor Flat in Gornal Village, excellent condition, private back entrance, close to all amenities. 07958 309269.

**ROOMS**, Brierley Hill, great decor and size, from £70pw including bills. 07932 085127.

**SHARED HOUSE** available, fully furnished, car parking space, Dudley area. Please call 07944 551595.

**3/4 BED HOUSE** Cosely, full refurb, spacious, parking and gardens, £575pm. 07855 725639.

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# Classified Ads

## 8

### Motoring

**cars over £1500**

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**AUDI A3 2.0TDI**, 53 reg, metallic black, very good condition, 118,000 miles, tax, MoT, £2,700 for quick sale. 07261 496006.

**AUDI A6 S LINE TDI** 4dr Saloon, 2967cc, 61/12 plate, tax, 89K, white, excellent condition, £18,995 ono. 01902 366066 ext 5390. Between 9am - 4.30pm Viewings will be in office hours.

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### LOW MILEAGE

**FORD FIESTA 1.25** Blue, 08 reg, 36,000 miles, excellent condition, tax/MoT, £3,500 ono. 01902 746860.

### LOW MILEAGE

**HONDA FRV** 9,125K, 59 reg, silver, good condition, 6 seats, 1 owner, FSH, MoT March 2015, £3,750. 01902 764454. 07503 150516.

**PEUGEOT 206 ALLURE** 2006, 71,334 miles, MoT Oct 2014, metallic silver Convertible. Leather interior, recently new tyres and clutch. Petrol engine. £3,295. 07814 792846.

**PEUGEOT 207 SPORT** 2009, 24,500 miles, black, electric windows, air con, alarm, MoT, tax, central locking, alloys, blue tooth, CD, aux, auto lights. Lovely condition. £4,200. 07971 233519.

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**VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.7 CDTi** MoT January, no tax, 47,000 miles, £1,900 ono. 01902 656795 or 07757 324628.

**cars under £1500**

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**CITROEN C5 Diesel**, 2001, 111,000 miles, silver, full MoT and Tax. ABS, E.W., air bag, E.M.A.C., FSH, alarm. £850 ono. 07958 793742.

**FIAT PUNTO** 1.2, 2003, MoT February 2014, tax September, 69K, service history, good condition, £695. Please call 07963 421402.

**FORD FIESTA Freestyle**, 1242cc, Y reg., taxed, MoT'd, 3-dr hatch, low mileage, lovely car, £700 ono. 07739 429594.

**FORD MONDEO** 5-dr, 2.0LX, silver, 03, 12 months MoT, owned from 2007, good condition, £750 ono. 07548 511612 / 01902 847277.

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**PEUGEOT 206 SPORT**, 2005, 76K miles, 1124cc, MoT to Dec, tax to Oct, alloys, new exhaust, excellent tyres, £1,495. 07720 071554.

**PEUGEOT 206 Cabriolet**, 62,500 miles, 2001 reg, 12 months MoT, one month tax, silver, £1,150 ono. 01902 590279 or 07868 926449.

**PEUGEOT 206 Convertible**, silver, 02 plate, 1.6cc, tax, MoT, 69K, very good condition, £1,495 ono. 07411 556454.

**RENAULT MEGANE CONVERTIBLE** 2002, 72,242 miles, black, electric roof, air bag, electric windows, air con, MoT, central locking, stereo CD. £1,200 ono. 01902 32177.

**RENAULT SCENIC** 1.9 diesel, X reg, recent service and brakes, very reliable, MoT Dec, tax end of July, £600 ono. 07460 853380.

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**TOYOTA CELICA ST**, 1997, 107,000 miles, red, long MoT, tax, alloys, CD, excellent, £750 ono. 01384 394297.

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**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2**, 51 reg., 3-dr, tax, 85K, MoT March, Good condition, £925 ono. 07760 887220.

**VAUXHALL CORSA COMFORT** 02, fully loaded, fsh, 4 door, full MoT, 6 months tax, excellent condition. £1,275 ono. 07754 557861.

**VAUXHALL VECTRA** 1.8, X reg, LPG, SRI, MoT till October, water pump needs changing, £500 ono cheap runner. 07899 831851.

**VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 2.0 DTI**, Energy, 54 reg, red, very good condition, new clutch and EGR, £1,495 ono. 07425 134062. 01902 733173.

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**JAGUAR E-TYPE WANTED** Private cash buyer. S1 or S2 OTS preferred but all models considered. Must be good condition and 4.2 engine. Call 07703 558711.

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**MERCEDES 380SEL 184**, 84,000 miles, blue, Good engine, everything works. Requires tidy up. £650 ono. 01384 256838.

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### commercial vehicles

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### motorbikes

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**KAWASAKI ER500** Y reg, 12 months MoT, only done 16,000 miles, good condition, gold, must be seen, £1,295 ono. 07527 727224.

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### number plates

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## 9

**Local Information**

### public & legal notices

**LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES** For convenient you may fax any advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email [marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk) (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

## 10 Personals

### personal

**Angels** The largest adult superstore in the Midlands. Adult toys & sexy lingerie. Adult New Items. Unit 3 Frederick Street, Walsall WS2 0NE. 01922 635544.

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One romantic and loveable, easy going male on special offer, aged young 60's, divorced, no ties, young at heart, medium build. I would like to meet a easy going, genuine Female to share some time together enjoying life. I'm hoping to find a slim lady aged 54 to 65, young at heart with a GSOH.

If you don't try, you won't get a reply (Ladies). Box Number P19282, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

**LADY 60'S** (Widowed) Petite, active, WLTM non smoking, driver gentleman to enjoy life, walks, meals out, cinema, holidays.

Share costs. Box Number P19276, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

**YOUNG LOOKING RETIRED BUSINESS GENT** Late 60's, widower, 5ft 10, good build, WLTM lady, non smoker, slim to medium build for Friendship.

Recent photo please, will return. Box Number P19291, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

**62 YEAR OLD PLUS SIZE LADY** Retired, no ties, would like to meet tallish, solvent gentleman for companionship and hopefully becoming best Friends and Soulmates.

Caring personality and GSOH vital, must have own transport. Box Number P19287, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

**general**

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### sports clubs

**BILBROOK JUNIOR F.C** Under 6 and under 7's players and managers required. Trials taking place June 21, at 9.30am.

Contact Tom Maydew 07760 663737. **UNDER 13's PLAYERS REQUIRED**

(Year 8 from September) Trials on July 5, at 11am. Call Jack Maydew 07972 924248.

**BILBROOK JUNIORS NORTH FC** Under 11's 2014/15 Season. Are looking for a GOALKEEPER and DEFENDERS to supplement existing Squad. If interested please call David on 07771 652368.

**LYE TOWN FC U13's** Looking for quality players to strengthen current squad, we play in SDYFL division one with a view to play MJPL 2015/16 season.

Benefits include selected games at Lye Town FC, free season tickets.

Contact Mark 07577 366651.

**PENN COLTS FC 5/7 A SIDE TOURNAMENT** U7's minor - 8 / 10 / 12 / 14 / Under 16's. Saturday, July 5. U7's/9/11/13/15, Under 14's. Sunday, July 6.

For all application form visit [www.penncolts.co.uk](http://www.penncolts.co.uk) or call 07748 677682.

**PLAYERS WANTED FOR TIPTON YOUTH UNDER 15's**

Playing in the Midlands Junior Premier League, training and playing from Tipton Community College, Dudley. For more information please call Ade Roberts on 07411 123724.

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**WEDNESFIELD GIRLS FOOTBALL CLUB** We are currently looking for Players to join our Under 15's Football Team for the upcoming 2014-15 Season. Players will need to be Year 9 and 10 from September 2014. If you are interested and would like more info please call Manager, Craig Ranford-07980 482544.



## Heathens promise a feast of sport

CRADLEY fans who are desperate to see England's World Cup game with Costa Rica next Tuesday can enjoy a bumper night of live sport at Monmore.

The club have arranged for the stadium to be open in time for England's World Cup game with Costa Rica at 5pm on the screens in the bar area.

Once the game finishes, all eyes will turn to the track as Heathens face a double-billing of racing with Scunthorpe at 7.15 in National League action – followed by deadly rivals Mildenhall in the Knock-out Cup.

It means a bumper night of action and admission prices are £14 adults, £10 concessions and £2 children for 30 heats of racing.

Fans are reminded about tickets for the evening with club legend Billy Hamill at the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill on Sunday, July 27. These will be available from the track shop next Tuesday, priced £10.

Meanwhile Former Golden Hammer winners Simon Lambert, Kyle Newman and reigning champion Lewis Blackbird will appear in the prestigious Cradley individual event at Wolverhampton on July 29.

## Swimmers battle into second spot

HALESOWEN swimmers travelled to Cheslyn Hay for the second round of the Mercian Summer League on Saturday. The swimmers faced tough opposition and after the opening relays the team found themselves in a battling third place.

A series of strong individual performances saw Halesowen draw steadily into a solid second spot and by the end of the gala were comfortable runners-up overall. Double event winners were George Davies in the backstroke and butterfly and Daniel Hill in the individual medley and butterfly.

Final scores were: Stratford Sharks 251, Halesowen 197, Kingsbury Aquarius 177, Boldmere 163, Orion, 153, Camp Hill 86.

# Cradley get the cream on trip to Devon

CRADLEY raced to their second away win of the National League season with a 54-36 triumph at Devon.

Heathens overcame some mid-meeting setbacks to complete the match strongly and take the maximum four points from the St Boniface Arena in Plymouth on Saturday.

All six riders present won at least one race, with Paul Starke notching 14 points despite a fall in his third ride, while Nathan Greaves added paid-13.

Heathens went into the lead with a 5-1 from reserves Tom Perry and Danny Phil-

### Speedway

lips in Heat 2, and that race result was repeated in Heats 5 and 7 as they extended their advantage to 11 points.

Devon, though, struck back, with a tactical ride second place for Matt Bates, beaten by an impressive Matt Williamson in Heat 8, and then a 5-0 in Heat 9 when both Starke and Perry came to grief with Phillips having also fallen in the previous race. When Bates won Heat 10 and Tim Webster overcame Max Clegg for third place the gap

was down to just two points, but Heathens then turned on the style with 5-1s in four of the last five races.

Starke and Williamson set the ball rolling in Heat 11, backed up by Perry and Clegg in the next with the Demons running out of options, and after a shared Heat 13 Greaves and Phillips ensured maximum points for the Heathens with more fast gating in the penultimate race.

Heathens' triumph was completed in the absence of key rider Steve Worrall.

He missed the trip to Plymouth as he was riding for Premier League side Edinburgh

at Workington. Boss Will Pottinger said: "I'm pleased with the result, and it's another four league points to add to our total. Our lowest score was seven points, which shows what a great team effort it was without Steve Worrall."

Devon: Matt Bates 11+1, Tim Webster 8, James Shanes 8, Richard Andrews 4, Danny Stoneman 3+1, Tyler Govier 2+1, Jack Hall (no.8) 0, Ben Reade r/r.

Cradley: Paul Starke 14, Nathan Greaves 11+2, Matt Williamson 8+3, Danny Phillips 7+2, Max Clegg 7+1, Tom Perry 7+1, Steve Worrall r/r.

# Baggies fans called to give Irvine a chance

**ALBION old-boy Darren Carter is calling on furious fans to give new boss Alan Irvine a chance as anger over his shock appointment reached boiling point.**

More than 7,000 fans voted in an internet poll with 83 per cent claiming Irvine is the wrong choice to be Hawthorns head coach.

But Carter, who played for Irvine in his first managerial job at Preston, backed the 55-year-old Scot to prove his doubters wrong.

Carter said: "I understand the frustration of the supporters because it's a surprise appointment."

"It was a surprise to me to see Alan and Rob Kelly get the jobs, but I have worked with them so I have first-hand experience and I can't speak highly enough of Alan and Rob."

"Alan is probably the most dedicated coach or manager I have ever worked with."

"The way he goes about his work, the way he plans his sessions and the way he prepares his teams for games is outstanding."

"He is the most thorough manager I have ever played for and I know that the players at West Brom will enjoy playing for him."

"He is a manager who will want his team to play football."

"He's not the type of coach who will ask his team to go 'route one'."

"He will want them to play football the right way and he will encourage his players to go out and express themselves, which I'm sure the Albion players will love."

Irvine's appointment

### Football

triggered outrage among Albion supporters who had demanded an experienced figure to replace Pepe Mel after a season of struggle.

Fans flooded social media with fury and threatened to demand refunds on season tickets while others tied banners to gates at The Hawthorns demanding the exit of chairman Jeremy Peace.

But Birmingham-born defender Sean St Ledger, who also played under Irvine at Deepdale, echoed Carter's backing.

St Ledger said: "I know that any player who has played under Alan will speak really highly of him."

"He is excellent on the training field, everything you do is geared towards the game at the weekend and, of all the managers I've played for, he is the one I learned most from."

Tim Sherwood says he turned down the chance to become Albion boss because of "missing ingredients". But the former Tottenham boss claimed this week that he was offered the chance to succeed Pepe Mel but rejected the opportunity.

## Heathens hammer home their superiority



Cradley's unbeaten Max Clegg leads Nathan Greaves and Lee Payne. Picture: John Hipkiss

RAMPANT Cradley were once again in unstoppable form as they crushed Stoke 64-30 to move top of the National League table.

The Heathens continued their perfect home record in 2014 with yet another comprehensive victory against a Potters side who had previously been in good form.

Max Clegg and Paul Starke both went unbeaten for the hosts while the rest of the side offered excellent

support in what was a classy all-around team performance.

It continues a dominant run for the side, who are already establishing themselves as the National League's team to beat following a host of big wins.

Team boss Will Pottinger was delighted, particularly as all seven riders again contributed. And having reached the top of the table, he is keen to see his side stay there for

the rest of the campaign. He said: "I can't fault anybody – it was another great team effort and an excellent result. It was a solid team performance with everyone playing their part again, so we've got to be pleased with that."

"It's good to see that we aren't relying on two or three riders – everyone is performing well."

CRADLEY 64: Max Clegg 14+1, Steve Worrall 12+1, Paul Starke 12,

## Runners turn out for annual memorial

DUDLEY Kingswinford Running Club held their annual Gavin Tipper 5k race last week to commemorate a stalwart of both the Rugby and Running Clubs.

Gavin was a player at DK for many years and is still the only DK player to score a try at Twickenham, later going on to become heavily involved in coaching at Tipton Harriers, Black Country Tri-athletes and Halesowen Cycling Club before his untimely death.

As a fitting memorial the club have held a race in his memory since 2008 linking with Action Heart, the cardiac rehabilitation programme at Russell's Hall Hospital.

This year the race was run in association with Kewford Eagles.

It was fitting that Tipton Harriers took the first three places with Luke Vine claiming victory in 15.34, from Steve Abrahams in 15.43 and Jacob Anson in 16.17. First DK runner home was Ben Foster in fourth place in 16.20, Dave Norman was ninth in 18.10, Paul Richards finished in 18.46 for 13th place and Richard Jones was 18th in 19.37. In the ladies race Tipton HarrierRosa Lewis taking first place in 18.55 from Eve Mulvaney in 18.59.

## Tipton get hands on new keeper

TIPTON Town FC have welcomed former Rushall Olympic, Hinckley and Bedworth goalkeeper Ash Malhotra to the club.

The 6ft 4 shot stopper who played under Nick Hawkins during his stint at Bedworth is another acquisition with experience of a higher level.

The management team are delighted to have him on board with Hawkins saying "I brought Ash to Bedworth and he really impressed. I know he will do the same this season".

Tom Richardson added: "A solid keeper is critical. I am sure goalkeeper coach Wes Cox is looking forward to working with him on the 21st and we are pleased he has joined the club."

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**Heathens hammer**  
Cradley stamps its  
authority on meeting  
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## An early season tests for Wolves

WOLVES will face an early test of their Championship credentials by tackling three of the relegated Premier League teams in their first four games of the new season.

Kenny Jackett's League One champions host Norwich on August 9, with a trip to Rotherham sandwiched in between Fulham away on the 20th and Cardiff at home three days later.

The first West Midlands derby for Jackett's side sees them host Birmingham City on November 1, with the return at St Andrew's on April 11. Boxing Day sees Wolves at Jackett's hometown club Watford with Brentford at home two days later in the only festive dates on the Championship calendar.

Albion have an inviting start with new-boy Craig Gardner handed an immediate reunion with his former club as the Baggies host Sunderland on the Premier League's opener, August 16 in a game that will see Billy Jones return.

Villa go to Stoke on the opening day before hosting Newcastle on August 23. Hull visit Villa Park a week later before a daunting run featuring Liverpool away, Arsenal at home, Chelsea away, Manchester City at home and Everton away.

Walsall kick off at Port Vale.

## Darlaston are back in league

HISTORIC Darlaston Town Football Club will play league football again next season.

After a nine-month campaign, which has seen £5,000 raised to save the 140-year-old club, the re-named Darlaston Town (1874) FC received official confirmation on Monday that its application to rejoin the West Midlands Regional League was successful.

The club was pulled from the fixture lists last season after the side folded due to financial problems.

But following support from residents and local businesses, officials announced in April that the necessary cash had been raised to cover the running costs of the team for the coming season.

Club chairman Neil Chambers said "This is fantastic news for the people of Darlaston."

## Tennis star Whiley heading to Wimbledon

AUSTRALIAN Open and Roland Garros champion Jordanne Whiley is among three Brits on the Tennis Foundation's Performance Programme set to contest the wheelchair tennis doubles event at The Championships, Wimbledon this year after the British No. 1 and British No.2 Lucy Shuker gained direct entry for the women's doubles with their respective partners.

Gordon Reid will also contest the men's doubles after he and his Dutch partner Tom Egberink were awarded a wild card.

Whiley and Japan's Yui Kamiji were runners-up at Wimbledon in 2013 to Dutch top

### Tennis

seeds Jiske Griffioen and Aniek van Koot, the same pairing that beat the partnership of Shuker and Whiley in the 2012 final.

However, Whiley and Kamiji have enjoyed a tremendous run of success since last July, ending 2013 by winning the Doubles Masters before claiming their first Grand Slam titles in Melbourne and Paris this year. They defeated Griffioen and van Koot in last Friday's final at Roland Garros, with Whiley subsequently earning a career best women's doubles world ranking of No. 2

this week behind Kamiji, who has moved to the top of the women's singles and doubles rankings.

"To have won my first two Grand Slam titles with Yui this year is incredible and we're very excited to be the top two doubles players in the world right now, so we can't wait to play at Wimbledon," said Whiley. "I've been in two Wimbledon finals so far and, of course, everyone dreams of a victory at their home Grand Slam, so we'll give it our best shot."

Shuker, formerly a two-time Wimbledon finalist with Australia's Daniela di Toro

as well as runner-up with Whiley in 2012, partners Germany's Sabine Ellerbrock this time after the duo played their first two tournaments together earlier this season, winning one and finishing as runners-up in the other.

Reid and Egberink line up in the four-strong field for the men's doubles alongside Stephane Houdet of France and Shingo Kunieda of Japan, the defending Wimbledon champions and this year's Australian Open champions, as well as Dutch duo Maikel Scheffers and Ronald Vink, the 2011 champions.

## Kristian's sights on medal

KRISTIAN Thomas targeted ending his bronze hoodoo after being confirmed in Team England's gymnastics squad.

The 25-year-old, who won Olympic team bronze two years ago, is eyeing a Commonwealth Games medal haul in Glasgow this summer.

Thomas, who trains at Earls Gymnastics Club, Halesowen, missed the 2010 Games in Delhi to compete in the World Championships, which were held a week later, but picked up a team bronze in Melbourne in 2006.

And the Wednesfield star, who has a World Championships vault bronze and horizontal bar bronze from the European Championships, is eager to upgrade his medal collection to stop the jokes from his friends.

"My mates will always make a joke about it," said Thomas, who won European Championships team gold in 2012 and silver this year.

"It would be nice to get a different colour. You tend to find if you enjoy a competition you do better if you're more relaxed."

He added: "It's going to be fun to compete there."

## Wolves draw The Cobblers

WOLVES have been paired against League Two opposition, at home to Northampton in the first round of the Capital One Cup.

It will be third time in four years twice-winners Wolves have faced the Cobblers in the competition, but the first time at home.

They won 4-0 at Sixfields in August 2011.

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# LESCOTT EYES UP MOVE TO ALBION

**ALBION were in pole position to hijack the Premier League scramble to sign central defender Joleon Lescott.**

The 31-year-old former Wolves favourite, looking for a new club at the end of his title-winning Manchester City career, is also wanted by Hull City and Stoke.

But Lescott is ready to give Alan Irvine's troubled start at The Hawthorns a huge boost by opting for a move to the Baggies.

The former England defender is back from holiday and booked for a medical at the club - if the final details of a two-year deal can be agreed.

Lescott had been negotiating with first Hull and then Stoke, who had been favourites to sign him. But Albion's interest gathered momentum over the weekend and the defender has told pals he has opted for a Hawthorns switch.

### Hostile

Albion are keen to drive through the deal as a positive response to the hostile reaction the low-key appointment of Irvine has provoked.

And Lescott's preference for Albion has been influenced by Irvine's surprise arrival having been impressed by his coaching during his three-year stint at Everton.

There are other links lurking Lescott to Albion where assistant manager Keith Downing was his former youth coach at Molineux and Rob Kelly - who Irvine is bringing in as an addition to the staff - is also a former coach of his.

### Football

Lescott was worried about a possible negative response from Albion supporters because of his Molineux background but both the player and club hope the eight years that have elapsed since he left Wolves will soften any resistance.

And it promises to be an important signing for Irvine and Albion after such a hotly-disputed appointment in which fears about such a low-profile management team attracting big name players have been one of the criticisms raised by angry fans.

Some fans were organising a protest against his appointment for Saturday. Such was the opposition to the arrival of a new head coach without any experience of the No.1 seat in a Premier League set-up, there have also been demands from other disgruntled fans to return their season tickets.

But Albion are sticking to their conviction that Irvine can prove the critics of his appointment wrong and believe sealing a deal for Lescott - one of at least six signings the club is working on - is a bold step forward.

## Eagles players enjoy rewards of season



Under 18 squad back from left, Simon Heeley (manager), James Harrison, Sam Greet, Josh Cram, Matt Williams, Keiran Bullimore, Josh Tighe, Ben Taylor, Jason Bennett (Assistant Coach). Front from left, Ryan Bailey,

Kewford Eagles FC held their annual Presentation Day at Brierley Hill Civic Centre on Sunday where all players received a trophy for playing with Kewford during the 2013-14 season.

Five-year and nine-year certificates were also handed out and for the first time two players received 12-year service awards.

Ben Boleyn and Harry Bennett joined the Feeder Group in 2002 and

have just completed their 12th season with Kewford Eagles in the Under-18s squad.

Charity Trustee, Lynn Boleyn, said: "It is sad that the Under-18 team will now fold as many of the players will be going off to University later this year although five players will be joining our Seniors team."

"Ben and Harry have both shown tremendous commitment to Kewford and no doubt in the years to come

they will be able to meet up with their old team mates when we have our new Clubhouse at Eagle Park."

Kewford, which was established in 1978, has around 550 children playing for them including those with disabilities.

Their new home ground, Eagle Park, was officially opened on April 26 by former player and manager of West Ham and England player Sir Trevor Brooking CBE.

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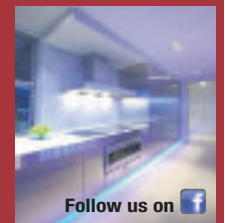
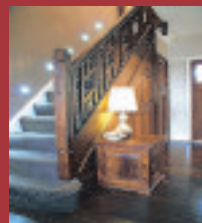
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